No. 1166
1 September –
14 Sept. 2006
£1.40

PRIVATE EYE

BRITAIN IN CRISIS

What are we going to do about immigration?
Gazette
Estate youngsters set out to clear up
I'll get a Polish bloke in to sort it out

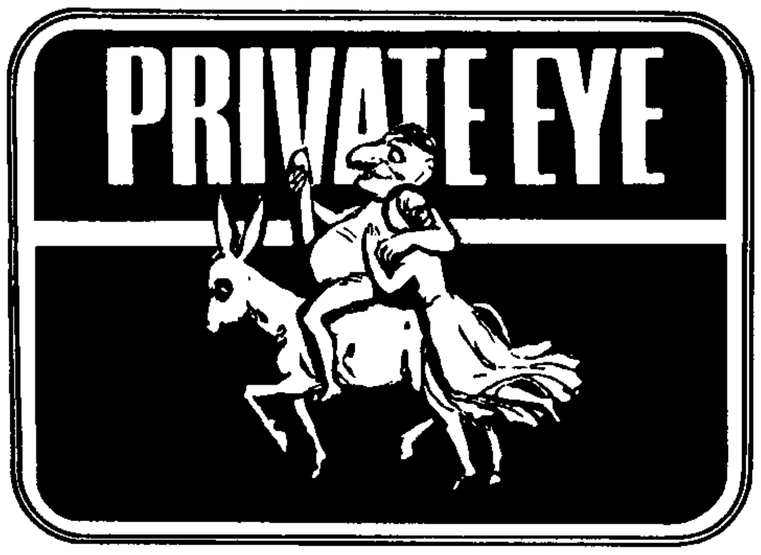
The new generation E-Class. Feel the effect of 2,000 refinements in a single test drive.

How different does a car feel when it has been enhanced in so many ways? You'll find out when you drive the new Mercedes-Benz E-Class. There's Direct Control technology, a range of improvements to the steering, suspension and manual transmission, resulting in a more exhilarating drive. There's also... No, we'll stop there. It's much better experienced than explained.

Mercedes-Benz

Visit www.mercedes-benz.co.uk/eclass, call 0800 66 54 63 quoting E-Class 007 or text eclass to 64500.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (MPG/LITRES PER 100KM) FOR THE NEW GENERATION E-CLASS SALOON RANGE: URBAN 32.5-16.7/8.7-16.9, EXTRA URBAN 56.5-34.4/5.0-8.2, COMBINED 44.8-24.6/6.3-11.5. CO2 EMISSIONS: 167-273 G/KM. MODEL FEATURED IS AN E200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE SALOON AT £30,120 ON THE ROAD (PRICE INCLUDES VAT, DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE, NUMBER PLATES, FIRST REGISTRATION FEE AND A FULL TANK OF FUEL). PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.



AMID all the chaos over the £12 billion NHS IT system and troubled software company iSoft (first warned of by the *Eye* in early 2005), the National Audit Office – supposed to "help the nation spend wisely" – has once again demonstrated its ineptitude.

THE early draft of the report on the NHS National Programme for IT that was released to the BBC's *World at One* under Freedom of Information legislation – the one showing just how much the criticism finally published had been watered down – is now available on the internet.

Several sections of this draft are blacked out to hide "commercially sensitive" information. But the method of blacking out reveals that NAO staff are fundamentally unaware of the way the IT systems they're using actually work. Cut and paste the big black blocks from the pdf (portable document format) of the draft into a word processing file and – ta da! – the text itself appears. Oops.

Thus the savvy computer user, such as Ian Cuddy of Public Sector Forums, who pointed out the error to the *Eye*, can read a fascinating table comparing the estimated costs with the contracted costs of various elements of the programme. They can also discover that BT was fined £11.6 million for "missing a number of milestones". Mysteriously, some of the blacked out material *did* appear in the final published report, suggesting that the whole issue is now in such a muddle that no one even knows what they're supposed to be hiding any more.

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN.
Tel: 020 7437 4017. Fax: 020 7437 0705.
Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
Website: www.private-eye.co.uk

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714 or 01795 414 871
Overseas: +44 (0) 1795 414 870 Fax: 01795 414 555.
Web: www.private-eye.co.uk
Email: private-eye@dovetailservices.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
£24 per annum. Europe and Eire £32. Airmail (rest of world) £38. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

ADVERTISING
Display: 020 7878 2303 Classified: 020 7240 9129

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ . **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC

THE *Eye* noted that Michael O'Higgins, the new head of the Audit Commission, might not be the best man to look after good value in public spending because of his former work pushing PFI and consultancy in his old job as Managing Partner at PA Consulting.

An Eye reader notes that O'Higgins must also have been involved in one of the worst recent public expenditures to date. PA Consulting, where Higgins had responsibility for both IT and public sector contracting, has been paid at least £12 million to prepare for the ID card. So far the ID card programme has slipped back years while costs have risen.

"What are we going to do about all these obese people?"

PATHOLOGIST Dr Michael Heath's professional performance fell short of the standards required of forensic pathologists by the Home Secretary, the Home Office Advisory Board ruled last week after a six-week disciplinary hearing into his role in two murder investigations.

Indeed. The cases examined by the board – those of Mary Anne Moore and Jacqueline Tindsley – were far from the only cases where Heath's work has been strongly criticised by judges or colleagues. Many have been reported by the *Eye*, but more keep coming to light. Watch this space.

JUBILANT patients have wrecked plans by US private health giant United Healthcare to take over two GP practices in Derbyshire. (*Eyes* passim).

The appeal court ruled last week that not only had the local North Eastern Derbyshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) failed in its duty to consult with patients before embarking on such a major shift in health provision, it now had to start the consultation process all over again. Which means that the local popular GPs, such as Dr Elizabeth Barrett, are once again in with a chance of running the two practices, at Creswell and Langwith.

The doctors and patients felt the tendering process was unfair and weighted in favour of United Health Europe (UHE) – now home to former Blair adviser Simon Stevens. The big multinational with no local knowledge, limited NHS experience and no staff, won top contract scoring points, while knowledgeable and well qualified local GPs were not even shortlisted Pensioner Pam Smith – who brought the case on behalf of the patients – said that perhaps health secretary Patricia Hewitt, who constantly espouses a "patient-led NHS", would listen to choices the patients of Derbyshire had made.

IT'S no wonder that political parties are on their uppers. The list of donations in the second quarter of this year, which was published last week, suggests that certain people aren't quite as generous as they might be.

The Tories declare recent donations from Jamie Borwick, who collected about £15 million from selling his stake in Manganese Bronze two years ago, and software tycoon Tony Bickford, who pocketed £70 million when he sold his firm QAS in 2004. Each of them gave David Cameron's party the grand sum of… £500.

What a contrast with working-class hero Tommy "Lavish McTavish" Sheridan, who donated £7,800 to the Scottish Socialist Party in June. Alas! Since then he has branded the SSP "a train-wreck" and denounced his fellow-MSPs from the party as "political scabs". The SSP returned the compliment by burning him in effigy last week at a summer camp for members.

Sheridan can presumably afford to wave goodbye to his £7,800, having just been awarded £200,000 libel damages from the *News of the Screws*. But if the award is overturned on appeal, as seems all too likely, he may yet regret his reckless generosity.

Number crunchings

30% ■ percentage of Labour donors who were nominated for jobs in the Lords

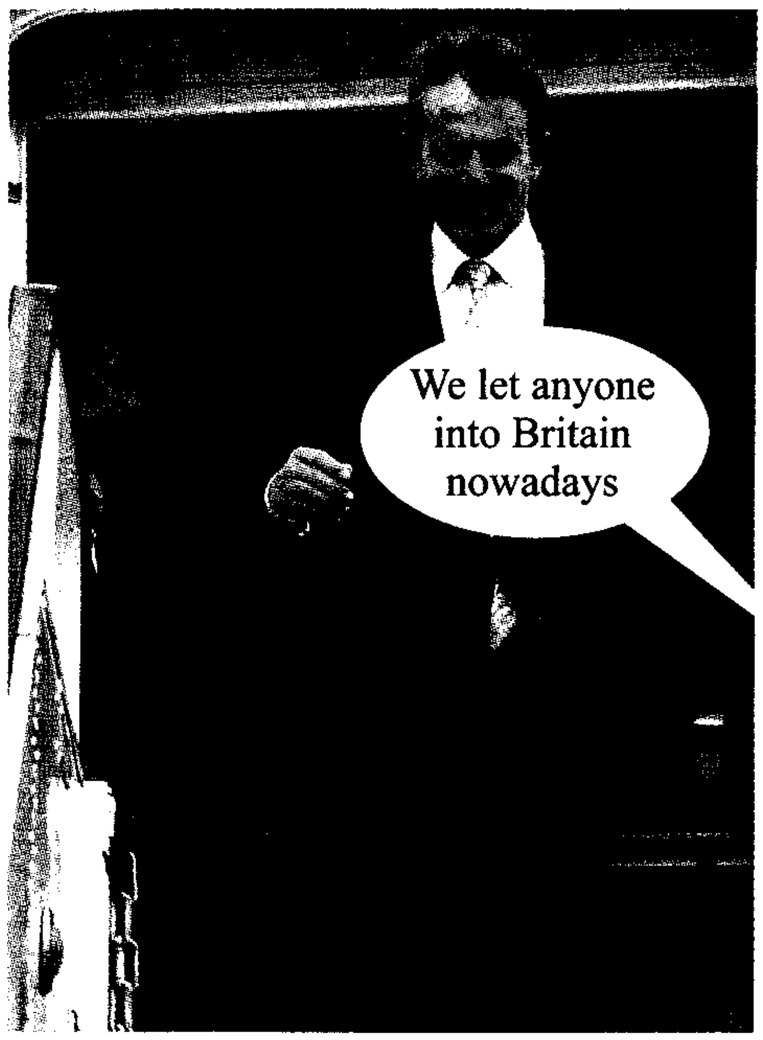
20% ■ percentage of Labour party workers who are losing their jobs because of the need to pay them back

IT'S less than a year since David Blunkett was dispatching solicitors' letters to Channel 4 protesting at *A Very Social Secretary*, a drama about his travails and sexploits. He described C4 commissioning editors as "weird".

Is that still his opinion, now that Channel 4 has commissioned two *Dispatches* films from Blunkett based on his taped diaries? By happy coincidence, their broadcast in October will coincide with publication of *The Blunkett Tapes*, the book for which Bloomsbury paid him £400,000.

Two whole hours of free advertising – no wonder the publicity department at Bloomsbury is ecstatic. But will it help him shift enough copies to earn back his advance?

BLAIR FLIES BACK TO IMMIGRATION CRISIS



Street of Shame

MUCH embarrassment at the *Sun* and fierce bollockings from Rebekah Wade after the publication of Prince Harry photos nicked from Natalie Pinkham's flat a couple of years ago. But how did they end up in the *Sun*'s possession, and why did the paper rush them into print without the most cursory check?

The answer lies in the role of Max Clifford. The *Eye* has learnt that the serial kiss-and-tell merchant was initially approached about the pictures. When he learnt that the *Sun* had some photos of one of his clients in a clinch with a woman other than his wife, he made his move.

A deal was struck whereby the paper agreed to lay off Clifford's client and run the Prince Harry pix as its exclusive instead. What it didn't realise was that Max and his client would enjoy the better side of the bargain.

O·B·N

"We love his playboy ways: If Teflon-plated Prince Harry could bottle and sell his secret formula he would be richer than the Queen. Whether he smokes, drinks, enjoys lap-dancing or, as the Sun exclusively revealed yesterday, gropes pretty pals, Harry is one royal whose popularity has sky-rocketed. And he is now being hailed as the greatest playboy Prince in the nation's history. Girls dream of a date while guys list Harry as the person they'd most like a beer with... What is it about this shy, loveable rascal that makes him impossible to dislike?"

– The Sun attempts desperately to head off legal action following the publication of inaccurately-captioned and illegally-acquired photographs of Prince Harry, August 16

SUN PRINTS OLD PHOTO AND HAS TO APOLOGISE

NERVOUS hacks in the *Sun*'s sports department hope that Rebekah Wade is too busy ranting at her subordinates over the Prince Harry photo fiasco to have spotted an unprecedented hat-trick of cock-ups in the back pages, all of which were proved wrong within hours of publication.

Since Rebekah claims to be a devoted Man U supporter, however, it's just possible that even she may have noticed – as all three stories concerned her favourite club.

First up was Neil Custis's "exclusive" on 8 August: "Cristiano Ronaldo has been pulled out of tonight's friendly at Oxford United amid security fears." Ronaldo duly played, and scored twice.

On 15 August, while the front page was filled with the disastrous "Dirty Harry" scoop, footie fans had another "exclusive" from the tireless Custis: "ROONEY'S LET-OFF. Wayne Rooney will today escape a ban following his pre-season red card for Manchester United." Later that day the FA duly slapped a three-match ban on the spud-faced nipper.

Two days later came an "exclusive" by veteran *Sun* hack John Kay, who doesn't usually cover sport stories but clearly had the inside dope on this one: "Owen Hargreaves will sign for Manchester United today." Hargreaves duly did nothing of the kind.

SINCE Rebekah Wade took charge, the *Sun* has made a point of rubbishing scoops that appear in its sister paper, the *News of the Screws* (see *Eyes* passim). Now the idea is catching on elsewhere.

Page 3 of last Monday's *Daily Mail* included a scholarly rebuttal of the latest rumours about Kate Moss. "Reports that she had arranged a 'spiritual' marriage ceremony in Bali yesterday – stymied by Doherty's arrest – are wide of the mark," it revealed.

Where had these lamentably ill-informed reports appeared? Why, as a proud "exclusive" in the previous day's *Mail on Sunday*!

AT LAST, some blessed revenge for those *Daily Mail* executives whose duties include stroking the ego of columnist Richard Littlejohn.

Last Tuesday, while the great man was sunning himself in Florida, the *Mail* reprinted *Radio Times*'s list of the 50 worst television shows of all time, "moments when television went that extra mile to create something memorably rotten – whether it was an inspirationally flawed concept, a supremely botched execution, or suffered from an unusually irritating presenter".

At number 32 in the "list of shame" was a doomed current-affairs series from 1998 which apparently met all these requirements – *Littlejohn: Live and Unleashed.*

THE management investigation into allegations of bullying at the *Independent on Sunday* (*Eye* 1165) has run into a slight problem.

Staff have been invited to confide their worries about the paper's macho culture in confidence to new managing editor Imogen Haddon, following the case of the newsdesk secretary who received in error an abusive email about her from acting news editor Peter Victor to thuggish "executive news editor" Andy Malone.

Alas there is a widespread feeling among the paper's journalists that if they do speak frankly they may be identifying themselves as "malcontents", to be dealt with at a later date. Result: most have decided that the safest course is to tell Haddon everything's fine and dandy after all.

"THIS is the Rio Grande in 1984," declared the *Guardian* on 27 February, over a picture of the Texan river in full spate. "Now turn the page to see what it looks like in 2006."

The following picture – of the river, in the paper's words, "reduced to a sluggish brown trickle" – appeared to amply illustrate Fred Pearce's accompanying article on how intensive farming meant that "the river's been disappearing since the 1950s". Except that, as the paper was shamefacedly forced to admit last week, it was almost certainly taken by a *National Geographic* photographer in, er, 1939.

"They're trying the honest approach"

"PORNOGRAPHIC poses, the going rate for sex, jokes about 'stupid tarts': the misogyny of the new breed of lads' mags is breathtaking," observed Janice Turner last October, flicking through a copy of *Nuts* for the *Guardian*. "Far cruder and ruder than red-top newspapers, the lads' mags appear more influenced by pornography in the poses their models strike, their obsession with girl-on-girl action, and their use of soft-porn staples such as women writing in with 'real life' sexual adventures: 'He turned me around, bent me over the railings and took me from behind.'"

Three months on, reporting for the paper from a conference on feminism, Natasha Walter was just as disgusted. "I hear them speak about feeling under attack by our *Nuts*-and-*Loaded* culture." In March, Alok Jha went even further in the *Grauniad*. "*Loaded, Maxim* and *FHM*... *Nuts* and *Zoo*" are offering "Impressionable young men" "a distorted image of who women are and what masculinity is about". Julie Bindel concurred. "... It remains to be seen how eagerly Britain's *Zoo* and *Nuts* magazine-obsessed male youth will sign up for a seminar on respecting women."

Finally last week the *Guardian* put its money where its mouth was and struck a blow against *Loaded* and *Nuts* by... stealing away their managing director, Tim Brooks, who will leave publishers IPC in September to oversee those most totty-tastic of publications, the *Guardian* and *Observer*. His appointment was welcomed by Guardian Media Group chief executive Carolyn McCall, who emailed staff to inform them that "Tim has a strong track record of commercial and creative success" and was responsible for "significant growth in the men's lifestyle market" – which must have come as something as a surprise to the staff on Media Guardian, which on 17 August noted that "the malaise in the men's magazine market has deepened as circulations published today showed significant declines for some of the sector's biggest players... *Loaded* was down 21.9% year on year... the previously un–stoppable rise of *Nuts* has finally come to an end."

"HIS 'engagement' to heiress Jemima Khan doesn't appear to inhibit Hugh Grant's social life," chortled diarist Peter McKay in the Daily Mail's Ephraim Hardcastle column on 12 July. "He was spotted in 'an intense tête-à-tête' with an attractive young woman in the bar of the Hotel Costes, Paris, a popular venue for romantic couples. The beauty concerned was described as shapely – in the immortal words of crime writer Raymond Chandler 'she had curves like the hull of a racing yacht'."

The immortal words actually belong to Ernest Hemingway, describing Brett Ashley in The Sun Also Rises – but this was the least of the paper's problems. One month later, the Mail was forced to point out that "the woman was in fact Mrs Khan. We apologise to Mr Grant and Mrs Khan for any upset."

Cyclists ride illegally with impurity on pavements and footpaths throughout the borough.

Wirral News Group

MUSING on the case of two Asian men removed from a plane in Malaga, the *Mirror* had some advice for us all. "The reaction of travellers who worked themselves into a panic is a timely warning of the dangers of prejudice... We must all remember that most Muslims oppose terrorism as much as Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Hindus or those with no religion. Scapegoating Muslims just because they are Muslims is unfair and counter-productive."

On the adjacent page, the following apology appeared: "On August 15 we published a photograph of Koser Zaman, 24, of Walthamstow, who we wrongly identified to be Cossar Ali, reported as having been arrested in connection with the alleged terrorist plot to blow up passenger aeroplanes... Miss Zaman has not been arrested and has no involvement or connection whatsoever with any terrorist activities. We apologise sincerely." The *Daily Mail* – which recently thundered that "the government no longer commands trust" in its pronouncements on terrorism, also noted that "In the last two weeks we have mistakenly published photographs of Koser Zaman... We apologise to Miss Zaman for the hurt and distress that has been caused to her and her family."

Meanwhile in the *Times*, which recently lectured its readers that "better intelligence and fostering public trust is the answer to conspiracy theories" concerning terrorism, we learned that "we published in the first edition of yesterday's paper the above photograph, identifying the man pictured as Assad Ali Sarwar, one of the suspects who had been charged with the recent alleged terrorist plot to blow up passenger aircraft. This was an error. The man in the photograph is not Assad Ali Sarwar... we apologise to the man in the photograph for the distress and embarrassment caused." This apology came two days after the *Guardian* – which has devoted much space to the danger of automatically criminalising all Asians through positive profiling at airports – pointed out that "in 'Convert to Islam among Suspects', August 12, we said that Amjad Sarwar of High Wycombe had been arrested. This was incorrect and Mr Sarwar has not been arrested nor questioned in connection with the alleged terrorists plots. We apologise to Mr Sarwar for the distress and embarrassment caused."

JUST FANCY THAT!

Shafted: Areas with significant Kurdish populations in Turkey, Iran and Iraq, according to *Jane's Intelligence Review*

MODESTY BLAZE

● *"I'M proof that academic failure can be good for you... This time of year reminds me of my mostly useless performance in examinations, particularly at maths... [But] a string of Grade As carries you just so far in life: nobody will care about your triumph in a few years' time. What will count from the moment your education ends are energy, charm, curiosity, persistence, finishing strongly and your willingness to defy orthodoxy."*
– Henry Porter, *Observer*, 20 August.

CRICKET BALLS

MUCH moralising and pontificating in the Sky Sports commentary box when the Pakistan cricket team refused to emerge from their dressing room at the Oval after being accused by the umpires of ball tampering.

But who among Sky's team was in a position to deliver a considered and impartial verdict on the Pakistanis or on umpire Darrell Hair, who was accused of harbouring a grudge against teams from the sub-continent?

Not former England captain Nasser Hussain: three years ago he described Sri Lanka's Murali Muralitharan, with whom Hair had also had an unsavoury run-in, as "a fucking cheat". Nor David Lloyd, who hinted at something similar after the Sri Lankan destroyed his England team in 1998.

Not Mike Atherton, who in 1994 was caught illegally rubbing soil into the ball. Atherton was subsequently fined not just for keeping the soil in his pocket but for not disclosing its presence to the match referee when first questioned about the incident.

And certainly not Ian Botham, who in 1984 described Pakistan as "the kind of place to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid", and accused his Pakistani opponents of cheating in 1992 after their bowlers ended his international career – though without producing any evidence to back up his claims.

After the Oval fiasco, Botham told the *Mirror*: "We were commentating on the match and

couldn't see anything illegal on cameras. The onus of proving this lies on Hair." In 1996 the onus of proof lay on Imran Khan when Botham sued him for libel, claming that he had been branded "racist, ill-educated and lacking in class" by the Pakistan all-rounder. Botham also complained that Imran had implicitly accused him of cheating by saying that all top bowlers picked the seams of cricket balls. Imran won the case.

LAST week's rumpus also proved awkward for the *Daily Telegraph*. "It is quite obvious that Pakistan were deeply hurt and upset by the allegation made by Hair," Geoffrey Boycott informed *Torygraph* readers. "You could be polite and say that attempting to alter the ball's condition is an offence against the spirit of cricket. In simple terms, it's an accusation of cheating."

But anyone expecting a moralising editorial about probity and declining standards was to be disappointed. The leader writers kept quiet – possibly because many of the paper's cricket pundits have committed the offence of which Pakistan was accused.

Boycott himself admitted to seam-picking in his evidence at the Botham-Khan trial 10 years ago. "I've done it," he told George Carman QC. "We've all done it. It's technically a breach of the rule, but 'cheating' – no, it's too emotive a word."

Simon Hughes, aka "the analyst", belatedly owned up in last Tuesday's *Telegraph*. When bowling for Middlesex against Pakistan some years ago, "I tried to exacerbate the ball's depreciation with a finger nail and had it bending both ways."

And what of the paper's chief cricket correspondent, Derek Pringle? "If you consider picking the seam, applying lip salve or other substances such as Vaseline to be illegal, then most bowlers are guilty," he wrote in 1993, immediately after retiring from the first-class game to become a hack. "In an earlier and clumsier incarnation of reverse swing, the umpire John Hampshire changed a ball that Essex had been using against the Australians in 1985. The bowler guilty on that occasion was your correspondent. Yes, I had tampered with it, and yes, it swung a lot."

HISTORIC MEETING

REID ALL ABOUT IT!

"Anyone listening to the new home secretary can't help but be reminded of Fulton Mackay, the hard-as-nails prison officer in *Porridge*."
– Michael Gove, *Times*, 2 June.

"On a good day, he [Reid] looks like Mr Mackay from *Porridge*."
– Simon Carr, *Independent*, 11 July.

"Mr Reid appears also to be developing exactly the same facial tic as another celebrated Scot, Mr Mackay of *Porridge*."
– Jon Henley, *Guardian*, 18 August.

"One of home secretary John Reid's ministerial colleagues has pointed out his resemblance to Mr Mackay, the TV prison officer played by Fulton Mackay..."
– "Black Dog", *Mail on Sunday*, 20 August.

"For anyone out there still tempted to pooh-pooh last week's sensational item revealing the startling resemblance between Mr John Reid, tough-talking, everything-by-the-book Scots-born home secretary from Hamilton North, and Mr Mackay, tough-talking, everything-by-the-book Scots-born prison warder from hit 70s comedy series *Porridge*..."
– Jon Henley, *Guardian*, 22 August.

JUST FANCY THAT!

"House Prices Slow. Annual house price growth slowed to 5.2% in June, according to official figures." – *Times, 15 August, p.22*

"Housing Market surge goes on. The resurgent housing market showed little sign of slowing for the summer as it chalked up the fastest price rises for more than two years, a leading survey showed yesterday." – *Times, 15 August, p.41*

Victory at Barnet for for athletics team

Enfield Athletics Club secured an easy victory, blah, blah, blah... no more than ten lines of copy, but can very. No left indent on second paragraph, text not justified, and make sure whole word is on same line, just like this. Enfield Athletics Club secured an easy victory, blah, blah, blah... no more than ten lines of copy, but can very. No left indent on second paragraph, text not justified, and make sure whole word is on same line, just like this.

Enfield Gazette

MAN IN THE EYE

MICHAEL O'LEARY

IN July last year, following the suicide bombings in London, Irish airline Ryanair decided to capitalise on the situation across the water by issuing an advert depicting Winston Churchill raising his fingers in the famous V salute, and announcing "We shall fly them to the beaches, we shall fly them to the hills, we shall fly them to London!" It resulted in what the Advertising Standards Authority called "a huge volume of complaints", although the watchdog ruled that while the ad could be considered "extremely tasteless", it did not violate its code.

Well, if a stunt's worth doing once, it's worth doing again. In the wake of the latest terror arrests, Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary not only recycled the advert but posed beside a Churchill impersonator to issue a patriotic threat to his successor's government that he would sue them for compensation unless increased security measures at Britain's airports – which he termed a "shambles" – were dropped within a week. For good measure, he did so in front of a large Union Jack, as opposed to the Irish tricolour that flies above his company's headquarters in Dublin.

It is not the first time O'Leary has raided the dressing-up box – he was previously condemned by the Catholic church in his homeland for dressing up as the Pope to "preach the low fares sermon" (geddit?). Nor is it the first time he has plucked a tasteless wheeze from the headlines – the former Swedish foreign minister Leila Freivalds is suing the airline for suggesting in a press advert that her conduct following the deaths of 550 Swedes in the Asian tsunami meant that it was "time to flee the country" on a cheap flight.

Mr O'Leary's seven-day ultimatum is not the only deadline expiring this week. On 1 September, the charge that Ryanair levies on anyone cheeky enough to want to take luggage on their holiday is scheduled to rise from £2.50 to £3.50 per item. This will allow them to stow a princely 20kg of luggage in the hold – up until 1st November, when Ryanair plans to drop the limit to 15kg. The current restrictions on hand luggage (passengers are only allowed to carry a bag the size of a small laptop computer on to planes) have frustrated Mr O'Leary's dream of emptying his holds and dispensing with expensive and time-wasting baggage handlers altogether. That said, the hundreds of thousands of extra £2.50s will no doubt have come in very handy, Ryanair being the only airline not to have suspended these charges since the security measures made baggage check-in compulsory.

Ryanair also continues to be the only airline to add a surcharge to every ticket to cover the cost of providing wheel-chairs, following a 2004 court ruling that it could not continue to charge disabled passengers £18 for the privilege of not having to crawl through the departure lounge, one of many fees and charges which bump up the advertised £0.01 fare from Stansted to Berlin Schönefeld by a mere 1,580 per cent.

Ryanair is also the only airline which requires potential pilots to fork out £200 for their own flying simulator tests, as well as a further £50 to cover the administrative costs of their job interview. Mr O'Leary, who announced in 2003 that "We are never paying a dividend as long as I live and breathe and as long as I'm the largest individual shareholder," has an estimated personal fortune of £300 million.

Details of some of Ryanair's own shambolic activities – and of the company's complaints procedure, which requires customers to phone a high tariff 0871 number, while they will only contact passengers by email in order to keep their costs down – could until recently be found on the website www.ryanair.org.uk, set up by disgruntled and out-of-pocket customer Michael Coulston as a repository for accounts of nightmare journeys at the hands of Ryanair. On 10 August the airline succeeded in its long quest to force Coulston to hand over the domain name to them (see *Eyes* passim). Thankfully, he has moved the site and its entire contents to www.ryanaircampaign.org instead. It is, however, unlikely to be the end of the battle – last month Ryanair announced that it may appeal in a similar case in which the Irish High Court refused its demands to be provided with the identities of employees who had posted on a union website using pseudonyms such as "I hate Ryanair."

Down on the Farm

BACK in the mid-1990s David Leidig, living in Kent, decided to take early retirement from his career as a senior manager for Woolworths and start a new business producing top quality unpasteurised cream and milk. A MAFF inspector told him that, under a new Brussels scheme, this would entitle him to 250,000 litres of EU milk quota, so long as he built a new milk parlour. When he had done so and applied for his quota, he was told that Brussels had changed the rules and dropped the scheme.

Mr Leidig was then assured by an inspector from the Intervention Board (IB), Ken Evans, that, since his Jersey cream was unpasteurised, and a by-product of skimmed milk fed to livestock, it was not subject to quota. This advice was confirmed or accepted by other IB officials. He built up his pedigree herd to 26 cows and established a successful business.

One day, however, a bill for £4,703 from the IB for selling milk "surplus to quota" arrived out of the blue. When Mr Leidig queried this, in light of Mr Evans's advice, the IB said they had no record of such advice being given. By trawling through phone books, Mr Leidig eventually traced Mr Evans, who confirmed in writing that he had given the advice. The IB cancelled its bill, but told Mr Leidig he would now have to buy quota to cover any future cream he sold, at a cost of £65,000. They then sent him a further bill for £24,925. When he queried this, they admitted they had miscalculated and changed it to £3,148, based on what he had actually been allowed to sell. The remaining £20,000-worth of milk and cream he had been forced to throw away.

Having invested so much money on the IB's advice, Mr Leidig sued the board for compensation. One day, prior to the hearing, he turned round to see two IB inspectors who had been about to smash down his door with a sledgehammer – until they were frightened off by his dogs. When told they had no right to do such a thing, the inspectors said they had the same powers as Customs and Excise. After questioning him at length they left, taking away a quantity of cream (unpaid for).

At the end of the court case, despite Mr Evans testifying as to the "advice" he had given Mr Leidig, Judge Poulton ruled that there was no case for compensation. On appeal, two more judges confirmed that Mr Evans had not given "advice", which was legally binding, but only "information". So shocked was Mr Leidig by this that he rang a Mr Van Dam in Brussels – the EU official in charge of milk quotas – who said: "I cannot believe your government has got away with this." But having lost his case and his business, he then faced the melancholy duty of arranging for his cows to be slaughtered and their calves shot (to be fed to the big cats in John Aspinall's nearby zoo).

Following contacts with various senior officials, including Franz Fischler, the then EU agriculture commissioner, Mr Leidig and his lawyers returned to the Court of Appeal, which twice lost their papers. When these were submitted a third time, Lord Justice Tucker briskly refused their plea for a rehearing. Mr Leidig is now left to tend his garden, reflecting that at least his case has proved one thing: that when a government official gives out "information", no one has any right to believe it.

'Muckspreader'

MR ANDREW SMITH: THE PLOT THICKENS

LAND sales scam supremo Andrew Smith has sent an outraged email to the *Eye* following our item on him in issue 1164.

"I have had no right of reply within your publication," he fumes. Not quite right. When we were preparing our first story last year (*Eye* 1139), about how his companies UPA and ILS encouraged people to buy plots of greenbelt agricultural land in the hope of gaining planning permission at a later date – which was on most sites very unlikely to be granted – we attempted to speak to Smith on several occasions, but he never returned our calls. Sadly, we concluded, he was for some reason not willing to talk to us.

"I have also complained to you about your last publication almost a year ago when you decided to attack myself and company," he writes. Not true. Smith has never contacted the *Eye* before, although he did threaten an unofficial Wrexham football club fans' website with a "liable" [*sic*] action after they reprinted our piece. Wrexham fans don't like Smith because, last year, he attempted to buy the club's Racecourse ground. They feared his real intention was to pull it down and build houses on it.

"One of your people members has reproduced that liablous [*sic*] message therefore opening themselves up to be sued in the same papers along with yourselves," he wrote to the Red Passion website's moderator in August last year. Strangely, the *Eye* never heard from Messrs Sue, Grabbit and Runne. Smith returns to the subject of "liable" in his email, dated 18 August: "I note that the time limit has almost expired for me to issue legal proceedings in regard to the the [*sic*] first publication." Indeed, he would have had to have issued a writ that very day, because the 12-month time limit on defamation actions expired in regard to that article the day after. But he still has nearly a year to sue us over our latest piece. We can't wait!

IN THE COURTS

AS the Eye went to press, PC Mark Milton was convicted of speeding by Ludlow magistrates. Last year, District Judge Bruce Morgan dismissed the charges against PC Milton of driving at speeds of up to 159mph on the M54, 131mph on the A5 and 91mph in 30mph zone, saying that since the roads were relatively deserted and Milton had advanced driving skills, "dangerous driving was not established". The High Court threw out the acquittal. Amazingly, earlier this summer Judge Morgan convicted Daniel Cadden, 25, and fined him £300 for "inconsiderate cycling". Mr Cadden's offence was, er, cycling on the road rather than in the cycle lane.

Number crunchings

31% ■ current popularity of Tony Blair in opinion polls

32% ■ popularity of John Major in opinion polls three months before he lost in 1997

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

OUT OF BOUNDS

METROPOLITAN police chief Sir Ian Blair's bizarre assertion last week that crime has decreased to such an extent that Londoners now feel safe to leave their doors open – and his even more bizarre use of a tower block in Haringey as an example – caused hollow laughter in that borough, where there were nearly 3,000 burglaries last year. (Although, of course, if people did leave their doors open it would save villains the bother of breaking in.) Haringey council recently hand-delivered a helpful leaflet to households, containing advice on how to deter burglars. One tip was not to leave mail sticking out of one's letterbox. Needless to say, that just how the anti-burglary leaflet was left in many doors. Another public relations triumph was a leaflet last month alerting residents of the Bounds Green area about an exhibition as part of a consultation on proposals for a controlled parking scheme.

NEW LABOUR: the exhibition, at a local school, was actually only on for three hours.

HARINGEY NEW LABOUR: the leaflet advertising it wasn't delivered to hundreds of households until a week after the event.

OH, HAPPY DAY

CONSERVATIVE councillors are keeping magistrates busy in Skidrow-on-Sea. Brighton and Hove councillor Peter Willows, 75, pleaded not guilty earlier this month to charges under section 5 of the Public Order Act, arising out of remarks he allegedly made while pissed at a council reception, to the effect that all gays are paedophiles. If found guilty at trial in December he faces a £1,000 fine. Meanwhile, Hastings borough councillor and former Brighton resident Richard Vallery has been bailed by Skidrow magistrates to appear at Lewes crown court on 15 September, charged with benefit fraud offences. It is alleged that he received £5,898 in income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit after being elected to Hastings council in 2004 – and therefore in receipt of a £5,000-a-year allowance – without telling Skidrow council of the change in his circumstances.

It's not all bad news for Sussex Tories, however. David Van Day, former member of naff 1980s pop groups Dollar and Bucks Fizz – who went on to run a burger van in Brighton in the 1990s – has been selected to stand as a Tory candidate at next year's Skidrow council elections. With candidates of this calibre, the Call Me Dave party could be unstoppable!

● NEVILLE "Fuck the Irish" Sanders (*Eyes passim*) may have been booted off Peterborough city council by the voters, but his spirit lives on in the form of his son, Conservative councillor David Sanders. Back in 2004 Sanders junior nominated and voted for his dad to become an "independent" member of the Cambridgeshire police authority – a nice little number attracting an allowance of £6,000 a year. This incensed the genuine independents on the council – mostly ex-Tories who had been kicked out for opposing their former leader's autocratic ways and bigoted outbursts. Meanwhile Lib-Dems on Pottyborough's partner in the police authority, Cambridgeshire county council, accused Sanders junior of abusing his position on the appointments committee and reported him to our old friends the Standards Board for England. The SBE produced a report – which still remains confidential – and referred the matter back to Peterborough's standards committee to determine what action should be taken. But Peterborough's Tories did nothing, despite there being a legal requirement to hold a hearing into the matter within three months. Now, 16 months on, the council has decided that, as all this happened a long time ago, it would now be unfair to penalise Sanders *fils* in any way.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THERE'S a hell of a stink coming from Torbay council's dustcarts – and it's not only the garbage that is rotten.

In 2002 the council decided to buy eight new dustcarts to replace its ageing fleet. Tenders were invited and, of 19 firms interested, a shortlist of three was drawn up: DAF, Dennis Eagle and Scania. Dennis Eagle bid £503,765, Daf £468,930 and Scania £467,148. After the shortlist was announced, however, Dennis decided it wanted to "adjust" its bid. By an amazing coincidence, the new figure put in by Dennis was £466,848 – just £300 less than Scania's.

Hang on a minute, said Torbay's assistant transport manager, Matthew Harper, this can't be right. He took his suspicions that Dennis must have been tipped off to his boss, director of environmental services Mike Yeo. He also raised concerns that tests designed to compare the dustcarts' performance could have been manipulated. Yeo told Harper an inquiry would be set up to examine his concerns. A few months later Yeo said the "investigation" had found everything was fine and there was no need to worry about any aspect of the tender process. Yeo then reorganised the environment department and announced one redundancy: M. Harper.

Earlier this month Harper had his claim for unfair dismissal settled at an employment tribunal hearing in Exeter. He was awarded a whopping £208,356 for loss of earnings, pension, injured feelings and psychiatric damage. Tribunal chairman Paul Housego said the council had mounted a "systematic" cover up. He said: "There is no other way to describe it than Mr Yeo lied." Nevertheless, Yeo remains in his job, for which he is paid a very unrubbishy £91,000 a year.

Oh, and the council still hasn't got new dustcarts, because the scandal has meant it's had to start the tendering process all over again.

OLDHAM TIGHT

LABOUR-RUN Oldham council is determined to jump into bed with private firm HBS (formerly Welsh Water) despite warnings from Richard Stay, the Conservative deputy leader of Bedfordshire council, to be wary of HBS. Oldham is close to signing a 10-year, £260 million contract with HBS and surveyors Mouchel Parkman which will see services including revenues and benefits, customer contact, highways and property services transferred a "unity partnership" along with 400 council staff.

The contract is remarkably similar to the one Tory-controlled Bedfordshire county council entered into with HBS in 2001, worth £267 million over 12 years (*Eye*s 1134 & 1138). Alas HBS's pisspoor performance forced Bedfordshire to dump HBS with eight years of the contract left to run. The council then had to pay HBS £7.7 million to avoid a lengthy legal battle.

Few in Bedfordshire had a better understanding of the shortcomings of the "partnership" with HBS than Stay, who as well as being deputy leader is also cabinet member for finance. Last month, in an unusual non-partisan gesture, Stay warned Oldham "to carefully scrutinise any proposed decision before signing on the dotted line". He told the *Oldham Advertiser*: "It was clear that profit became more of an issue for HBS", who, he claimed, "became more interested in supplying profitable services and were operating less as a partner and more as a contractor".

When asked if they would heed Stay's warning Oldham council told the *Eye*: "We aware of the past history between HBS and Bedfordshire county council. We have also been in contact with HBS's other partnerships who have provided us with positive feedback. We are confident that the unity partnership, which includes HBS, will deliver high quality services to Oldham".

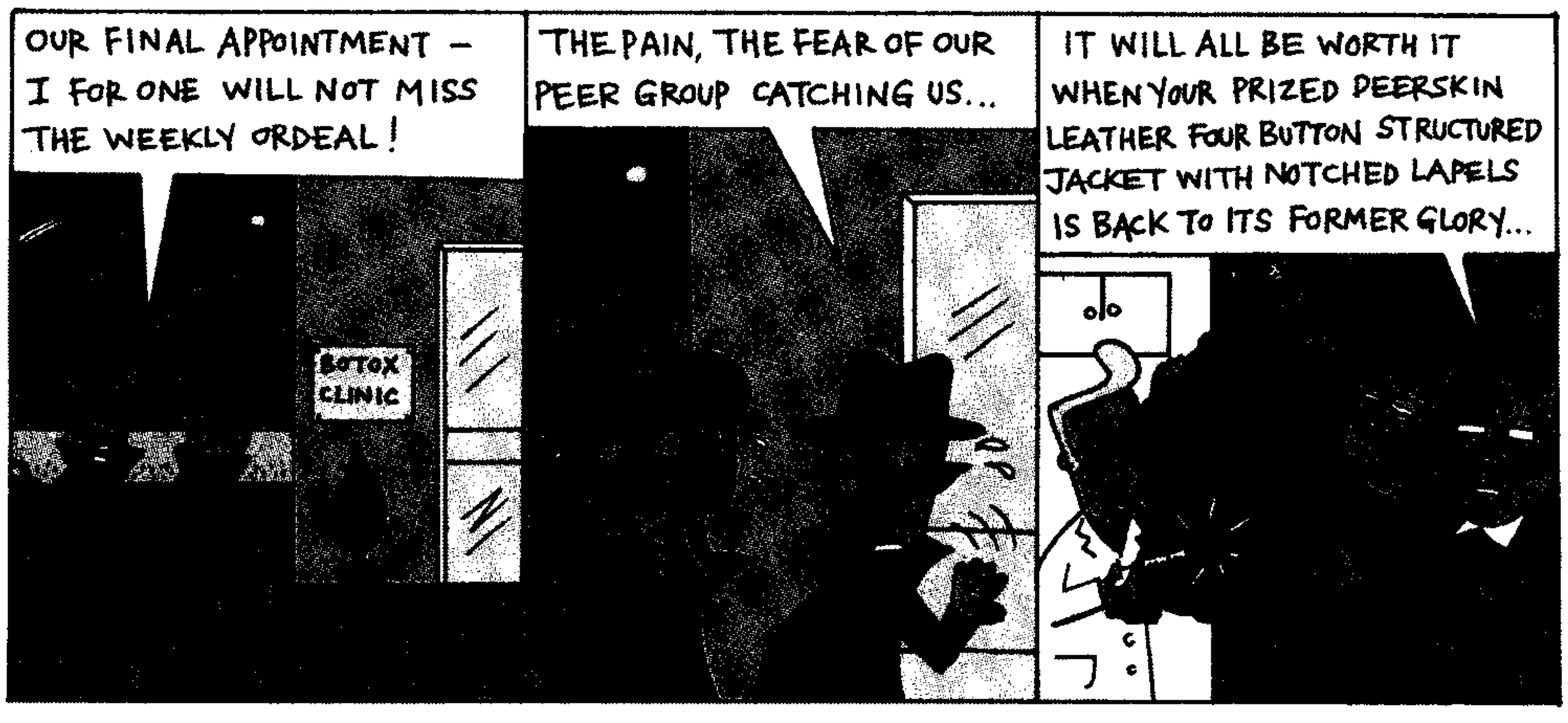
Can't say they weren't warned!

● OXFORDSHIRE county council's Tory leader Keith Mitchell had a fit of the vapours after a "lifelong Conservative voter" wrote to David Cameron about the county council's grant of planning permission to RWE npower to fill in Radley Lakes, a beauty spot and wildlife haven near Abingdon, with ash from Didcot power station (*Eye* 1164). Call Me Dave's office forwarded the email to Cllr Mitchell, who took exception to the writer's complaint that the party was "[paying] lipservice to the environment and ecology with a leader who is emulating Tony Blair with spin and more spin… If the Tories want to win the hearts and minds of the ordinary man in the street again, then they have to start with the councillors, who are still died [*sic*] in the wool Victorian mill owners…" The voter mentioned the *Eye*'s story about how the Wantage Tory constituency chairman also sits on RWE npower's corporate responsibility board.

Mitchell replied: "I think you should be ashamed of yourself… I resent your allegation that Conservative county councillors 'sided with big business'. This issue was carefully judged on planning grounds… Your statement about 'Victorian mill owners' is pathetic and wholly untrue…" And, the clincher: "I am afraid reading trashy literature like *Private Eye* is always dangerous in that it might encourage trashy thinking." Ooh, er!

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

KNIFE & PACKER


OUR FINAL APPOINTMENT – I FOR ONE WILL NOT MISS THE WEEKLY ORDEAL!
BOTOX CLINIC
THE PAIN, THE FEAR OF OUR PEER GROUP CATCHING US...
IT WILL ALL BE WORTH IT WHEN YOUR PRIZED PEERSKIN LEATHER FOUR BUTTON STRUCTURED JACKET WITH NOTCHED LAPELS IS BACK TO ITS FORMER GLORY...

TV

The One Show (BBC1)

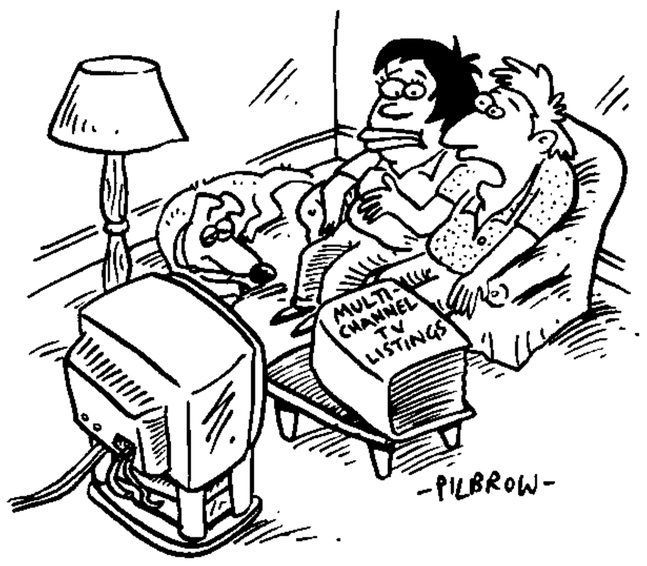
THIS summer, the sports pages have been filled with articles arguing that everything was better in the old days. Veteran football writers have asserted that Pelé and Bobby Charlton would never have head-butted an opponent in a World Cup Final, while ancient cricket correspondents have sworn on their mother's batting pads that Asif Iqbal and Zaheer Abbas would never have refused to lead their teams out after tea at the Oval just because they'd got the hump with the ump.

Such sentiments are no surprise: it's a famous sign of ageing to sentimentalise the values of your youth. But, while sportswriters can only harmlessly dream, the problem in television is that nostalgia can be acted on by bringing back the old days. At some point in the past year, a middle-aged BBC executive – or, still worse, a fiftyish government minister – must have sounded off at a corporation jolly about how much they used to enjoy sitting down after their fish fingers and beans to watch *Nationwide*, the 6pm regional magazine series which used to combine news stories, interviews and eccentrics hosted by a rolling presentational crew including Michael Barratt, Frank Bough, Sue Lawley and Bob Wellings.

It's all too depressingly possible that either the dewy-eyed executive or the maudlin minister realised in the midst of their reverie that reviving such a programme might be quite a good way of emphasising the corporation's commitment to truly national coverage at a time when the BBC's charter is being painfully renegotiated.

Whatever the reasoning, as a result of this loving flashback, *Nationwide* has been resurrected as *The One Show* – 35 minutes a night of light news from the width of the nation, slotted into the BBC's regional opt-outs such as *Look East* and *Look North*.

The show is hosted by Adrian Chiles, the chubby brummie who was the great success of the BBC's World Cup coverage, and Nadia Sawalha, whose job seems to be to look as relaxed and actressy as possible on screen. The decision to give this gig to Chiles is a classic BBC muddle. During the World Cup, focus groups and newspaper reviewers responded far better to Chiles, who also hosts *Match of the Day 2* on Sundays on BBC2, than to Gary Lineker,



"Who says people don't read anymore?"

who was hammered for being smug and unfunny. But Lineker is too tightly contracted to be moved and so, ludicrously, Chiles had to be rewarded by being moved away from the format in which he had won praise. The accent also helps. Almost immune among the BBC's presenters, Chiles is free from any risk of what execs now define as the greatest sin: being regarded as posh.

There's nothing wrong in principle with the promotion of Chiles, who is as natural on camera as any presenter since Desmond Lynam. But the problem is that, as the Anthea Turners, Philip Schofields and Graham Nortons have learned down the years, it's no good being a hot presenter if you keep being placed in cold formats. *The One Show* is not the one to show Chiles at his best. Whereas *Nationwide* combined a lively studio feel, specialist segments (*a* consumer slot with Richard Stilgoe, *Sportswide* with Lynam) and quirky, crafted reports from a dedicated cadre of correspondents, *The One Show* simply sits Chiles and Sawalha side by side to introduce so-so segments fronted by hands borrowed from other BBC shows, including Dan Snow and Kate Humble.

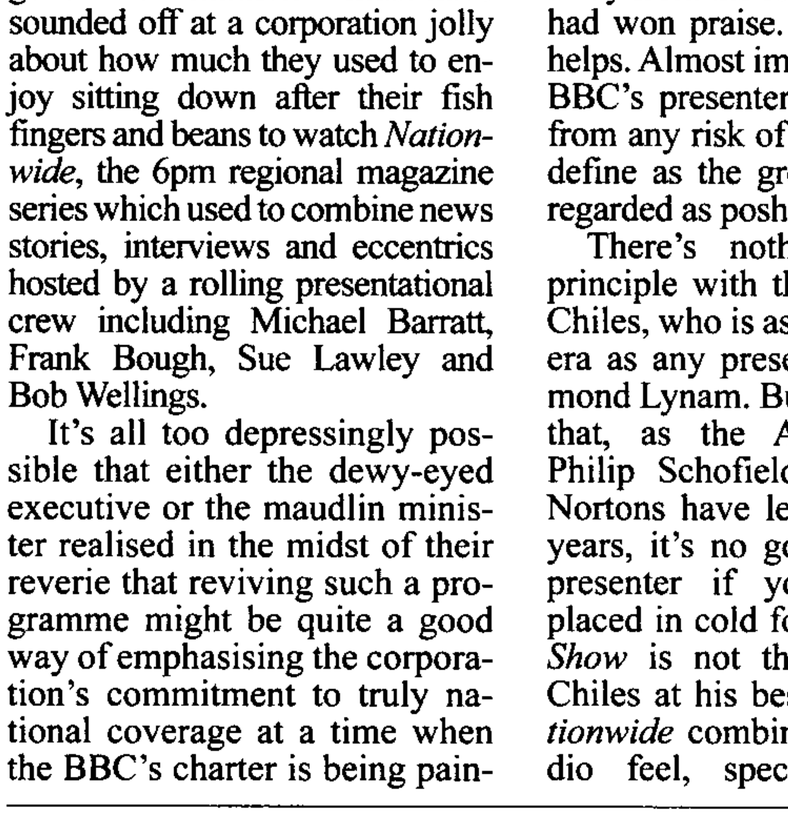
Even by the second week, these items felt increasingly desperate. A village was challenged to live for a week using less electricity: a stunt tabloid newspapers and current affairs shows were doing years ago. Invariably, a prepared package is followed by a live link-up with the reporter.

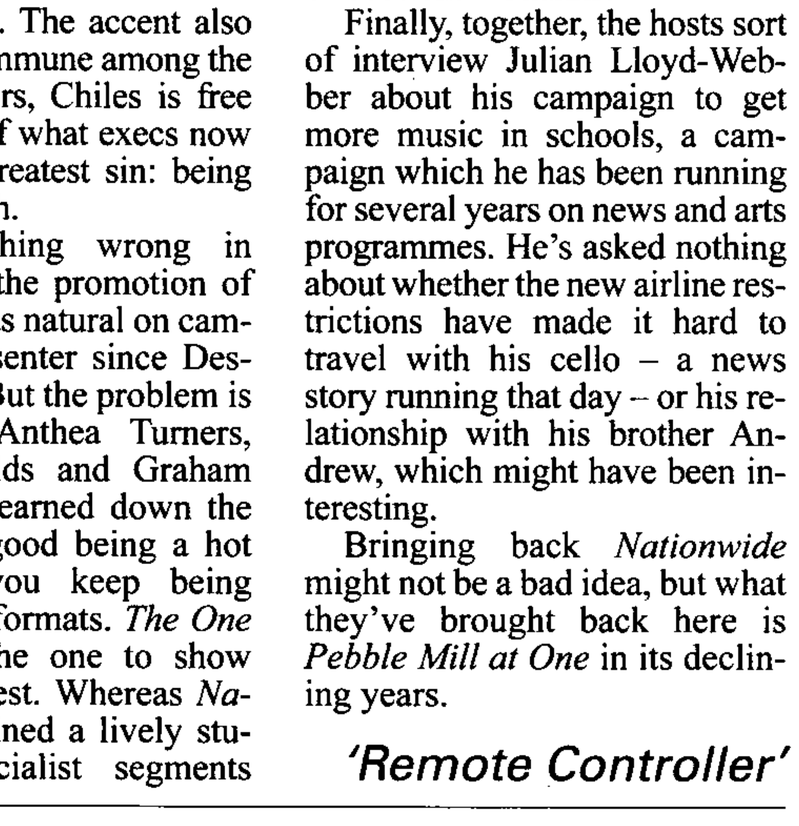
Chiles likes to say in interviews that his Midlands tones have been an advantage in his career because people assume he is thick – and then are surprised when he asks a bright question. But that's disingenuous because, on *The One Show*, his constant shtick is to pretend to be thick. "I didn't understand those figures because I'm of limited intelligence," he tells a reporter. Reading out an e-mailed joke, he says: "It did make us laugh but that probably says it all!" Egotism is off-putting in presenters, but so is too much self-deprecation because it makes you wonder why you should be tuning in to someone who keeps telling you how useless they are. Alongside him, Sawalha is so theatrical that even a simple sign-off from an item accumulates a remarkable run of triple gratitude: "Thanks Ramesh and thanks to the village of Scorton! – Thanks!"

Finally, together, the hosts sort of interview Julian Lloyd-Webber about his campaign to get more music in schools, a campaign which he has been running for several years on news and arts programmes. He's asked nothing about whether the new airline restrictions have made it hard to travel with his cello – a news story running that day – or his relationship with his brother Andrew, which might have been interesting.

Bringing back *Nationwide* might not be a bad idea, but what they've brought back here is *Pebble Mill at One* in its declining years.

'Remote Controller'





MEDIA NEWS

ON the day that the government revealed its new Minister for Fitness, Caroline Flint, the BBC News at Ten led with an appropriate story: "new figures show the alarming scale of obesity in Britain", said Fiona Bruce.

The figures were the government's own and were endorsed by the BBC: "the obesity crisis is far worse than we thought", according to Bruce.

A package from the Beeb's health correspondent, Branwen Jeffries, followed. "We should all eat less and do more. It is very hard for the government to say that publicly", she revealed.

Of course, it's a lot easier for the government to say anything publicly when the BBC decides that its public service remit allows it to be used as an extension of the government's own publicity machine.

The next day, the Ten led with another government initiative. It was the day that Ruth Kelly announced a "bold" new initiative to tackle ethnic tensions: "are ethnic tensions leading to the break up of society in Britain", asked a helpful Fiona Bruce.

THE BBC's Diversity Unit is in crisis after its Editorial Executive Mary FitzPatrick said in her very first interview that there are too many white journalists reporting from foreign countries.

A barrage of complaints from hacks of all colours at BBC News followed.

Now there are also complaints from licence-payers: "it would be nice to have a disabled person rather than one from an ethnic minority. Let me be petty and divisive for a second (but you know you feel it too) THERE'S MORE OF US THAN THEM!" said one.

And there are complaints from within the Diversity Unit itself. The English Regions Diversity Monitoring Database people are upset that too many of the "approved" commentators on the main Diversity Database live in London.

And the Welsh Diversity Database is receiving flak for for failing to find enough Welsh-speaking Muslims.

BIRTSPEAK

"The director general noted that the drive to deliver audio-visual content on demand via broadband was making real progress, but warned that the 'neat silos' of the BBC's current structure would continue to present challenges for a service that demands seamless interplay between media."

– The online pages of the BBC's staff newspaper, Ariel

DUMB BRITAIN

Steve Wright's Big Quiz, Radio 2
Wright: Who wrote the novel Lady Chatterley's Lover?
Contestant: Chaucer.

National Lottery Jet Set, BBC1
Eamonn Holmes: Who wrote Treasure Island?
Contestant: Robinson Crusoe.

BBC Radio Leeds
Presenter: What was the title of Tolstoy's epic novel of the Napoleonic invasion and the lives of three aristocratic families?
Contestant: The Domesday Book.

The Weakest Link, BBC2
Anne Robinson: Which is the only letter in the alphabet with three syllables?
Contestant: Z.

"Is that a bid or are you a friend of her father's?"

GOING LIVE

WITH police eager to secure the detention for a further 28 days of the suspects rounded up after an alleged terrorist plot, the BBC's Breakfast programme was keen to keep its viewers informed of anything they might have missed in the night.

Sure enough, its correspondent was ready bright and early to report from outside the maximum security Paddington Green police station. And his first words? "No developments here overnight…"

MODESTY BLAZE

● *"LOOK at it from my point of view. Not the way you know me now – the familiar and confident TV news presenter – but the way I was back in September 1967... People say I am a role model for a new generation of immigrants... What's more, my achievements, unlike some of the hugely successful Asian businessmen in Britain, have been very public. They are measured in the millions who watch me every night on TV."*
– BBC newsreader George Alagiah introduces the serialisation of his new book, *Daily Mail*, 19 August.

AT LEAST one financial journalist is finally cottoning on to the lunacy of the Private Finance Initiative, as pointed out consistently by the *Eye* for the past ten years.

A fortnight ago Channel 4's Liam Halligan "revealed" the mysteries of how the private companies behind the initiative screw the taxpayer for millions: borrowing at high rates, refinancing to extract a fortune, cutting costs and flogging for a quick buck on the burgeoning "secondary market". He somehow failed to mention that all these scams have been extensively covered by the *Eye* for years.

Halligan managed to trail his programme with a column in the Sunday Torygraph dismissing critics to date as prejudiced against the scheme. He, on the other hand, had "no ideological aversion to PFI" and "really wanted PFI to work". It was only at a PFI industry dinner in 2004 that he resolved to look into the scheme, writing his first word on the subject earlier this year. And how the scales fell from the eyes of the economist as Tory Public Accounts Committee member Richard Bacon explained to him on screen that the secretive City funds now buying up PFI projects might "sweat" the assets for profit – just as predicted in the ideological Paul Foot's special report, PFEye, in May 2004 (*Eye* 1102).

Eastbourne

This gentile seaside town looks set to be in the spotlight more and more as its reputation as a film location spreads

Sussex Life

AD NAUSEAM

BACARDI'S new "You In?" campaign is part of a £70 million global advertising splurge designed to move the brand away from some recent dud excursions. As these included using a dancing cat and the former footballer Vinnie Jones as brand ambassadors, it's fair to say that a change was somewhat overdue.

The lead TV spot for the exciting new tack is called "Swimming Upstream", and opens on aerial shots of the New York marathon. Two men in salmon outfits emerge from behind the barriers and "swim upstream", running in the opposite direction to the flow of other runners. The idea (delivered, as ever, with all the subtlety of a sledgehammer to a sea-shell) is that Bacardi drinkers are mavericks, free-spirited individuals who like to break the mould.

All of which makes it rather ironic that the "Swimming Upstream" spot is yet another example of adland's "creatives" being anything but. The whole idea is lifted from the adventures of a group of merry pranksters called The Cacophony Society, who have been dressing up as salmon and running the course of the Bay to Breakers San Francisco 12K race in reverse for the past five years. The creative team at Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe/Y&R had the killer insight of swapping San Francisco for New York. Worse, this is not even the first time that the Cacophony Society's practical joke has been borrowed by mass-market advertisers: Nike ran posters for the 2004 Bay to Breakers run featuring an athlete dressed as a salmon.

This must come as particularly galling news to Bacardi given that last year they dumped McCann Erickson, their agency for more than a decade, because McCann's couldn't come up with any new ideas. A protracted six-month pitch led them to RKCR/Y&R, who, in exchange for the £70 million, have given them… an old idea.

STEFANO Hatfield, the editor of Rupert Murdoch's new freesheet, *thelondonpaper*, has been predictably scathing about the rival London *Evening Standard*, particularly its columnists. "You see so many columnists moving round for big fat salaries not making a blind bit of difference for the sales of the paper that has either lost them or hired them," he told last week's Press Gazette.

This hasn't stopped Hatfield from offering his thoughts to readers of the Independent in his weekly media column. It is hardly a must-read – he writes endlessly about ad agencies with bizarre acronyms that virtually no one outside the industry has ever heard of. But, of course, the advertising types love the attention, which has not exactly been a handicap with Hatfield trying to drum up support for the new rag.

How to change history

Historically correct | **Politically correct**

Thanks to D. Fairfax

I-SPY *Italy*

UNFORTUNATE AD Part 94

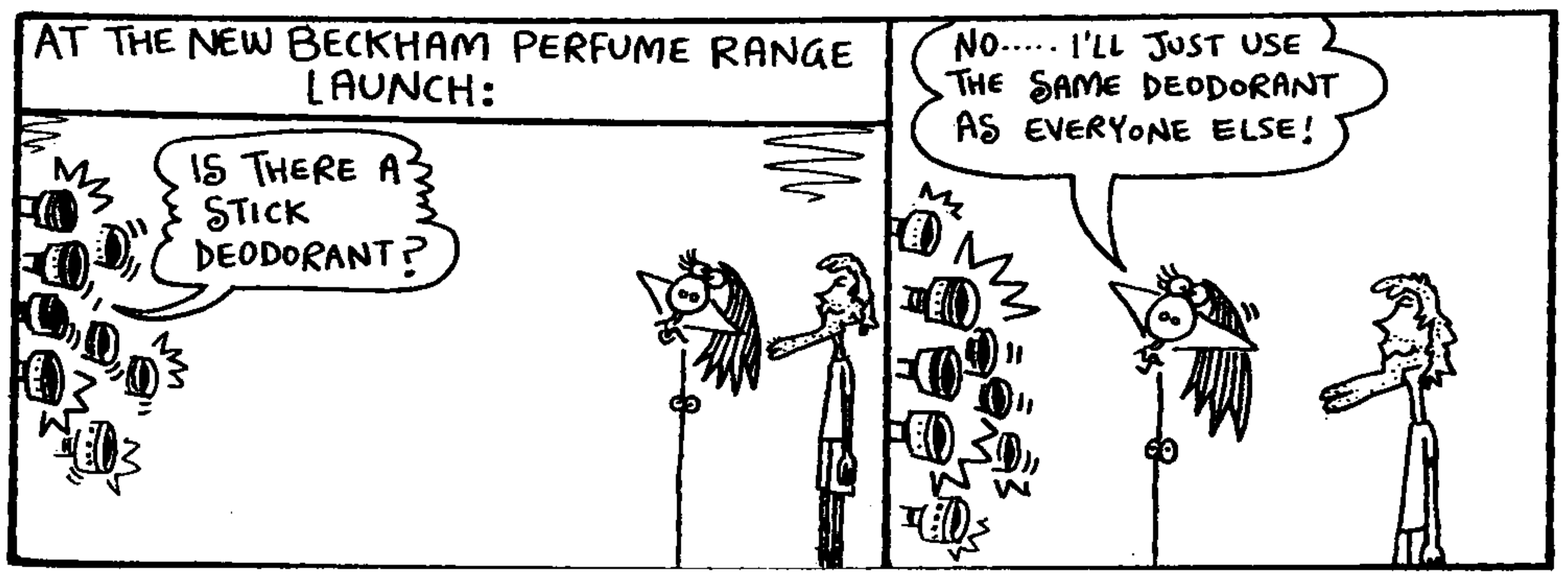
Thanks to John Shields

Pakistan insist on Hair removal 345

BBC Ceefax

SUPERMODELS

KERBER



MEDICINE BALLS

3. There's only one NHS

DURING the last election, Tony Blair took the piss out of the Welsh health service for its long waiting times compared to England. Given that Wales is theoretically served by the same National Health Service that Blair had promised to turn around, it seemed a brave call – and one that caused huge embarrassment to Welsh Labour MPs. But the Welsh Assembly has chosen to take its NHS in a different direction to Blair's relentless focus on competition and privatisation in England. In Wales, the emphasis is on tackling the causes of ill health, rather than trying to micromanage the NHS. So who'll have the last laugh?

Instead of spending hundreds of millions of pounds abolishing community health councils, setting up a Commission for Public and Patient Involvement in Health and closing it down again, Wales simply kept the CHCs. It has invested in free breakfasts for primary school children and free prescriptions for all. Devolved parliament in Scotland has funded free personal care for the elderly, whereas in England thousands of elderly patients are denied nursing care on the NHS because their medical needs are artificially reclassified as "social" and they have to sell their homes to pay for care.

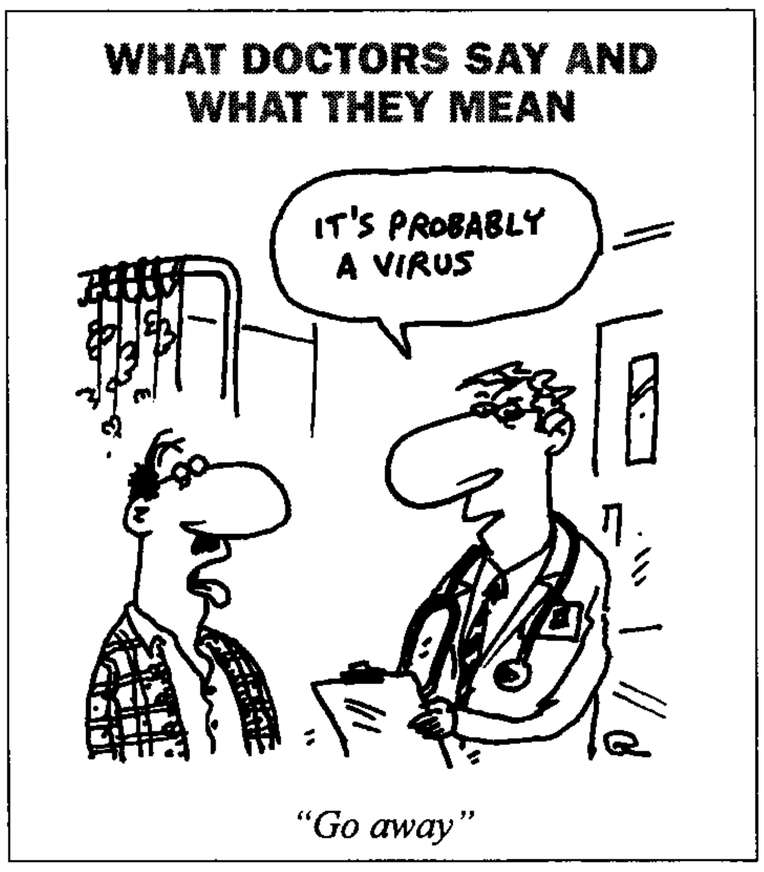
The Scottish parliament also managed to reconfigure its health services with broad support from the public and health service staff – in marked contrast to the divisive battles over privatisation that the English NHS is enduring. In Wales and Scotland, the ethos is more to trust professionals to do their jobs out of a sense of vocation, rather than rely on market forces and excessive regulation to do it for them. Primary care trusts, payment by results, star ratings, compulsory choice and practice-based commissioning do not even exist in Wales or Scotland. And the hugely bureaucratic raft of proposals that Sir Liam Donaldson to revalidate doctors only applies to England.

The downside for Wales and Scotland is that their left wing, increasingly nationalist approach has ducked the politically combustible issue of hospital closures. In Wales, the mindset is that each area should offer uniform services, which is neither efficient nor cost-effective (hence the huge waiting lists). In Northern Ireland hospital activity is 26 per cent lower than England per bed. Scotland is using the private sector to get waiting lists down, though much less so than England and only when there is a real need (as opposed to the English stance of competition for the hell of it).

Scotland's reform programme seems to be the most co-ordinated, with its focus on networks and partnerships. In Wales, First Minister Rhodri Morgan is aiming for "clear red water" between Cardiff and London and the Lib Dems are too supine to object. In England, the volume and haste of new initiatives, some of which directly contradict others, has meant that not even senior managers are clear about what they're supposed to be aiming for.

What is clear is that there is no UK focus in health policy, and there are huge disparities in entitlement and treatment across four countries. This is completely contrary to the notions of equity and treatment according to need, and it will be some years before we discover who got it right. The three smaller countries at least have the advantage of watching the English NHS crash and burn, and then cherrypicking the good bits. In the mean time, go to England for quick operations, Wales for free prescriptions, Scotland for long-term care and Northern Ireland if you don't like change.

MD



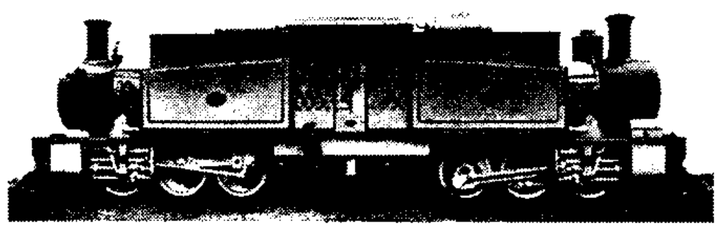
PRISON SELL

AFTER 19-year-old Zahid Mubarek was battered to death in his cell at Feltham Young Offender Institution by his racist cellmate in 2000 the prison service vowed to introduce systems that would reduce the likelihood of such a tragedy happening again.

Mubarek, a 19-year-old Asian, inside for a first offence (stealing a packet of razors worth £6) was put in the same cell as Robert Stewart, a psychopathic racist with a string of convictions for violence (*Eyes passim*). Stewart, also 19, killed Mubarek with a table leg in the middle of the night.

A key element of the National Offender Management Service's (Noms) strategy for making cell-sharing safer was the creation of an easy-to-use computer database which would hold details of all prisoners' criminal records and other details such as ethnic background and any history of racism or violence. In theory this would flag up any potential problems between cellmates. Alas Noms went to the Eye's favourite computer company, EDS, the contractor that specialises in pocketing millions in government funding for failing to deliver effective solutions. EDS came up with a system called C-NOMIS.

A pilot scheme was supposed to have started at HMP Albany on the Isle of Wight in July. But it hasn't, and the Home Office admits nothing is likely to happen before the end of September at the earliest. The main problem is that EDS's brilliant system has so far been unable to "interface" (ie talk) successfully with existing prison service and Home Office systems, such as the Inmate Information System. As this is the main reason for the existence of C-NOMIS, this is discouraging. Wider trials scheduled for January look unlikely to start on time. EDS insists that the whole system is still "on track" to go on stream in 2008.



SIGNAL FAILURES

Read my lips: no new bailouts

ON 31 March the government said that no new rail franchises will be rescued because the "market" hurriedly introduced by the departing Tories is now "more mature" and private firms know what they're taking on. So how come GNER's new franchise is already in trouble?

The government fears that bailouts would encourage other franchisees to demand more. But as each franchise competition costs millions of pounds and takes more than a year, incumbents are in strong bargaining positions. And with every renegotiation, the franchisee gains and taxpayers lose.

The tough new policy lasted just a few weeks. The government renegotiated the First Great Western franchise soon after it started on 1 April. On cue, other franchisees held out begging bowls; they reckon it's the taxpayers' job to cushion their shareholders against rising diesel prices. An electricity deal has shielded the big commuter franchises in the South East from recent price rises, but electric bills will increase 65 per cent when the deal runs out next year.

That's one reason why GNER, which has mainly electric trains, is up shit creek. It's also "materially adversely affected" by "improvement in Network Rail's performance"; in the bizarre world of privatised rail better punctuality is a setback, as it cuts compensation from NR to franchisees. GNER's biggest problem is the £1.9bn premium it agreed to pay the government over the franchise, without new or extra trains to attract more passengers. It needed 10 per cent revenue growth in year one, but received just one-third of that.

Will "new" Labour ever get its hands on that £1.9bn? If it strips GNER of the franchise and runs another competition, other bidders will be chastened by GNER's experience. If it wants GNER (owned by ailing Bermuda-registered Sea Containers) to continue, it has to renegotiate the deal. That would mean loss of face after the declaration of no bailouts, and encourage bidders for future franchises to submit unrealistic bids and demand more cash when safely entrenched.

Whichever course is taken, this hardly resembles maturity. Nor does the franchise market look any "more mature" than when the first franchises were awarded, on terms so unrealistic that many were bailed out – at huge cost to taxpayers – and some had to be terminated early. After more than a decade of refinement, franchising is still a shambles which has yet to deliver a single clear benefit for the public that a nationalised train operator could not provide, and at a fraction of the cost.

PS: The better deal for First Great Western resulted from "new" Labour trying to be clever by delaying public consultation until after final franchise bids had been invited last summer (Eye 1135). The sheer weight of public opinion forced "new" Labour to abandon many of its desired service cuts, but by then the franchise deal was already signed. The only way out at such a late stage was to change the franchise contract, with appropriate compensation for FGW.

LAST year no passengers were killed in train accidents in Great Britain, and eight (mostly intoxicated) died in station accidents. In the same year, 3,201 people were killed on the nation's roads. So why does the government belittle rail's safety benefits?

In evidence to the energy review, transport department rail strategist Mark Gaynor wrote: "The case for public subsidy for rail rests primarily on the road decongestion, environmental and safety benefits. On the advent of road-user charging, the road-decongestion justification drops away. The safety benefit remains, but its value is small."

He seems oblivious to the gulf between road and rail safety. Every train movement is strictly regulated; the roads are a free-for-all where many drivers are drunk, sleepy, distracted, disqualified, unqualified, impatient or aggressive. Road charging won't change that. If traffic moves faster after "road decongestion", accidents could be more violent. Many people will avoid road charges by cycling or walking, where they are at greater risk.

Safety justifies investing in extra rail capacity and cutting fares and freight tariffs to attract more people and goods off the roads. But with "new" Labour actively pricing people off trains and on to roads to avoid increasing rail capacity, and its beloved franchisees maximising profits instead of passengers carried (*Eyes* passim), it's vital that no official connection is made between rail policy and the government's targets for cutting road casualties.

'Dr B Ching'

NOOKS and CORNERS

"TO ATHEISTS inadequately developed building sites; and often, alas, to Anglicans but visible symbols of disagreement with the incumbent: 'the man there is "too high", "too low", "too lazy", "too interfering"' – still they stand, the churches of England, their towers grey above billowy globes of elm trees..."

So began the introduction to the Collins Guide to English Parish Churches by the sainted founder of this column, John Betjeman, the centenary of whose birth is currently being celebrated.

When that inveterate church-crawler wrote this in 1958, the principal modern threat to these churches had yet to emerge; that is, the demand for kitchens, WCs, disabled access, flexibility and the like. As so often, this comes as a threat from within – as A.N. Wislon puts it in his new biography of the late Poet Laureate: "from the Church itself, the clergy who could not see, what was obvious to the rest of the population, that each parish church, even the duller ones, is a gospel in stone. Each tells us much more than most sermons or uplifting books. And it is also a link with our forebears, with the past. (The very reason why some of the more power-mad clergy hate church buildings.)" Quite.

How it may look – Ptolomey Dean's proposal for St Dunstan

All of which illuminates what is going on at Cranbrook in Kent, where many in the town are up in arms over plans to make the magnificent Late Mediaeval parish church of St Dunstan – "The Cathedral in the Weald" – more suitable "for its present and future role". Some £160,000-worth of repairs to the roof are necessary, but the restoration proposed is also to be a "reordering and refreshing". The 1880s pews, designed by R.H. Carpenter, are to go – and broken up to construct three free-standing pavilion "enclosures" within the church: one containing a kitchen and lavatories, one a crèche and one for storage. Instead of inflexible seating, there are to be chairs, to make "A Beautiful, Flexible, Holy Space". The west entrance is to be opened up for disabled access and equipped with – what else? – glass doors.

This has provoked anger within the congregation and in town. Opponents point out that St Dunstan's has both a vestry hall and a church house close by, containing, between them, eight WCs as well as other facilities, thus making the enclosures unnecessary. They point out that the north door would be far more suitable for disabled access, and that proposed changes to the west entrance involve altering the old cobbled path from the town.

The moving force behind the proposals is the vicar, the Revd Martin Burrell, supported by the Revd Paul Jenkins, a "national expert in reordering".

What concerns me is the attitude of the architect wheeled in to carry out this work. "What happens to the nave? Brace yourselves," the architect told the congregation. "What would happen if we saw the stone columns reach the stone floor? Imagine if we stood here and saw the stone floor and seating in a circle. Now it's only a question – to regain the architectural quality, to regain the space."

Beware when you hear a modern architect drone on about "space". Here it is claimed that there would have been no pews in the church when it was built 600 years ago. True – but it would not have been an empty space. As Betjeman's hero, G.G. Scott junior, once wrote: "You ought never to be able to see from end to end of a Gothic church." Besides, as both Betjeman and William Morris pointed out, the historical and artistic interest of a Mediaeval church is often the contribution of sub-sequent centuries. The National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies considers it one of the best churches in the south of England for its interior artefacts. This architect, however, finds that "there is an overwhelming sense of accumulated furnishings and items which detract from the building and its sense of peace". So out they must go.

So who is this blinkered technician? Why, he is a "celebrity architect". He is Ptolemy Dean, whose gushing enthusiasm for old buildings has delighted viewers of the BBC's *Restoration* television series. Young Mr Dean now runs his own practice, which "specialises in conservation work to historic buildings". He recently reordered Farnham parish church – where William Cobbett is buried – giving it, yes, "pavilions" containing kitchens, storage space etc, but this time Georgian in style. Ptolemy Dean likes Georgian. Viewers recently saw him drooling over the "lovely pews" in Newlyn Methodist Chapel in Cornwall, built in 1835. But the pews in Cranbrook Church, which he recommends throwing out, he dismisses as merely a "standard Victorian product".

But then it's just a job, I suppose.

'Piloti'

I-SPY

Luton Airport

Submitted by Chris Brooks.

£10 paid for similar submissions.

(SAE required for return of photographs)

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

THE new wave of Islamic terrorists (alleged) may not have got their plane the other week, but they scored a major cultural hit against the world's musicians who have effectively been put out of action by the security measures.

Violinists, cellists and the like spend their existence on the road – and, more particularly, in the air – moving from one date to the next. And they necessarily do it with their instrument beside them, because you can't put a £1 million Strad in the hold where it will get thrown around and subjected to freezing temperature drops. In most cases these sorts of instruments will be on loan to the player from a bank or foundation with an insurance agreement that specifically prohibits consignment to the hold. So what does the wretched player do? He cancels his concerts and doesn't work.

The other week the New York-based Orchestra of St Luke's cancelled trips to the Edinburgh Festival and the Proms, while the Bolshoi Opera orchestra, over here to play in London, only managed to get back to Russia travelling by train. This week the RPO has been trying to work out how on earth it gets itself and its instruments over to Spain and then back again in time for a concert in Proms.

And so it goes – in an unfolding catalogue of chaos that the chief executive of the RPO calls "a logistical nightmare" and the Musicians Union considers an impending crisis likely to have "devastating impact" on the viability of classical music.

It's been especially hard for cellists who are hit by airline regulations at the best of times and normally have to buy a seat for their cello as though it were a human passenger. A few days ago the star British player Steven Isserlis was told his exquisitely rare and fragile 18th-century Strad would have to go in the hold. Which was out of the question. But it was also out of the question for him to cancel the concert because it was the Salzburg Festival premiere of a new piece, specially written for him, with no possibility of anyone stepping in to substitute. So Isserlis hauled the cello on his back, picked up his bags, and travelled to Salzburg for ten hours by a succession of trains. Not the best way to make world-class music.

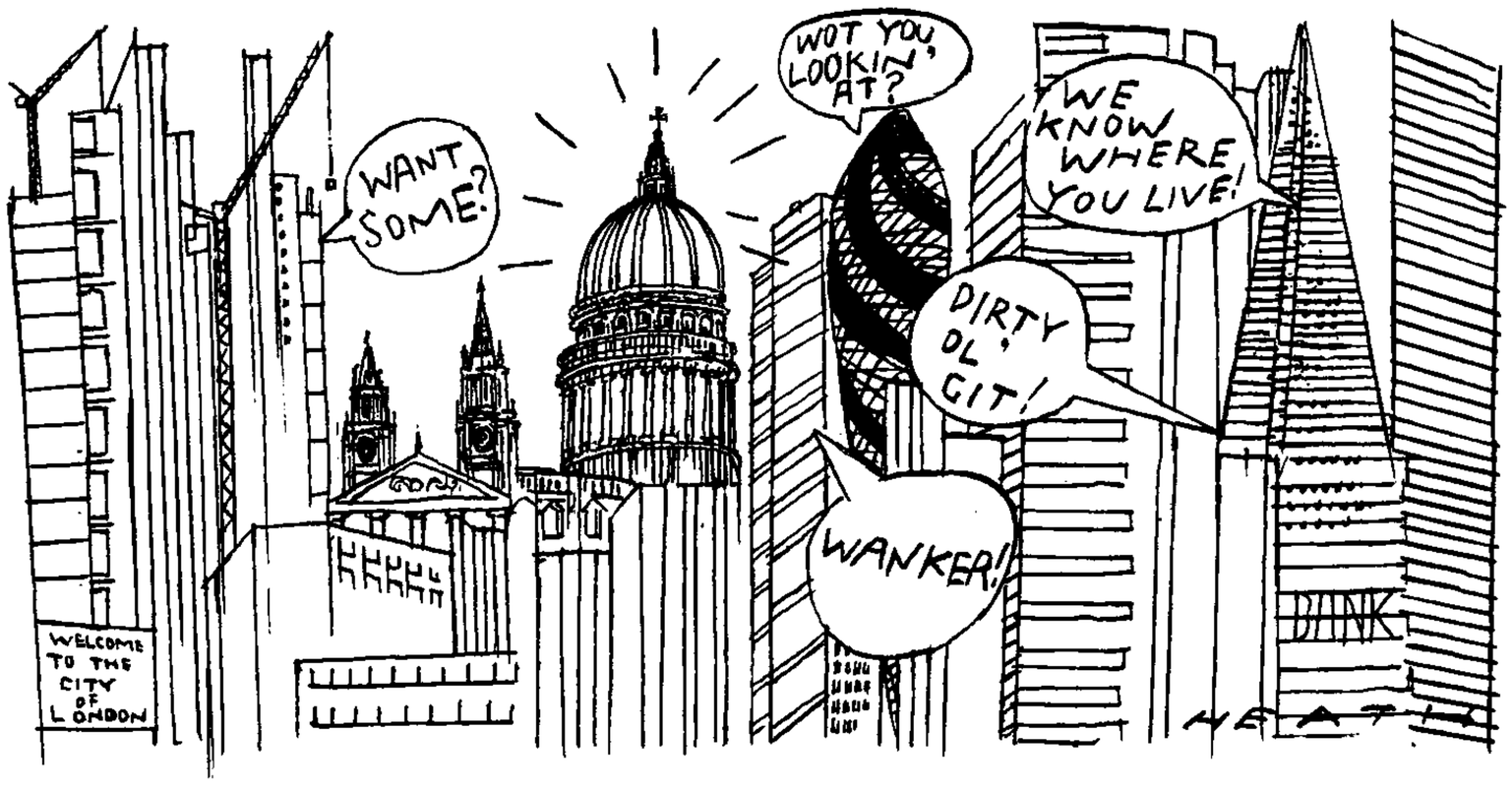
That said, there's one musician right now who must be thinking that wherever he goes in the world, and by whatever means, there is no place for him. Earlier this summer the American conductor Gerard Schwarz was squeezed out of his post as music director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra after players initiated an informal vote of no confidence in his artistic leadership. He made his last appearance with the band in June (at a concert so heavy with bad atmosphere you could have choked) and then flew back to lick his wounds in Seattle where for the past quarter century he has also conducted the Seattle Symphony.

But alas, his Seattle players have now done more or less the same as his Liverpool ones, conducting a survey among themselves that tells him to pack his bags. After two such high-profile slaps in the face, on both sides of the Atlantic, you wonder if there's any train journey long enough to escape the embarrassment.

'Lunchtime O'Boulez'

WHAT ARCHITECTURE MEANS

HEATH



Letters

Rubble and strife

Sir,

Three cheers for the letter-writers taking issue with your coverage of the bombing raids on Lebanon (Eye 1165). Clearly, most if not all of the thousand dead civilians (the children and aid workers especially) had strange Arabic-sounding names and so were potential Hezbollah terrorists. And obviously any Lebanese citizen who owned a house did so in order for the roof terrace to be used as a rocket launching pad so Israeli forces were absolutely justified in their totally proportionate tactic of bombing to rubble every building they could find.

I would cancel my subscription but I can't be bothered.

CHRISTOPHER CONNOLLY,
Chesterfield.

Border cross

Sir,

*I was rather disappointed to see you print such a one-sided letter (Eye 1165) regarding the recent conflict in Lebanon, and surprised that you have readers who are so blindly pro the Israeli state's aggression against the Lebanese people. The idea that Hezbollah has a monopoly on terrorism is quite simply b******s. While I condemn indiscriminate attacks on all civilians, a quick look at the casualty figures should show who has been spreading the most terror. More than 1,300 Lebanese (mostly civilians) versus 150 Israelis (mostly soldiers) have been killed so far in this conflict. I don't endorse Hezbollah's denial of Israel's right to exist, but what better way to recruit more people to their cause than by bombing Lebanon back to the stone age because of a minor border skirmish? The Israeli government's line that they don't deliberately target civilians is shameful, as they are either lying or woefully incompetent in their choice of targets to attack. It's little comfort to the injured and bereaved that they were hit by "accident".*

Yours,
CHRIS BUNNY,
Via email.

Lookalike

Sir,

David Cameron seeks to revive the Conservative Party by extinguishing the torch and substituting a more animated design. Surely this undertaking is cloned from the logo for the late and lamented HBO programme about morticians at work and play?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL BURNS,
Wembley Park.

Tommy trouble

Sir,

You have got your Sheridans in a twist. Surely it is Tommy, Scottish Socialist MSP for Glasgow, who will be writing the Taxi Driver column in praise of the jury system since one recently found in his favour against the News of the Screws. Jim, Labour MP for Paisley, resigned as a PPS in protest at Tony's refusal to speak out about Israeli action in Lebanon, thus becoming famous as the last man in Britain to realise that Yo Tony always does exactly as he's told by Dubya on whom he is relying for a lavishly paid post-premiership job.

And isn't Douglas Alexander now Transport Minister? He is also Scottish Secretary as befits a Scottish Labour MP who believes Scottish oil revenues are better spent helping with America's imperialist wars and supplying a squadron of Trident submarines to the US Navy crewed by British sailors (except for the USN officer who gives the orders) rather than improving the lives of the Scottish working class.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON MCNEILL,
Largs, Ayrshire.

"It's nuclear family waste"

Aim local, not high

Sir,

If Karen James (Letters, Eye 1165) is "sick of rifling through FHM and Loaded... in Morrisons supermarket" searching for the Eye, might I suggest that she, instead, patronises her local newsagent?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BUTTWELL,
Roath, Cardiff.

Write not wrong

Sir,

Eye1165, letters page:

"I accept that it's difficult to keep finding amusing cuttings, but you shouldn't include clippings where the so-called cock-up is surely deliberate."

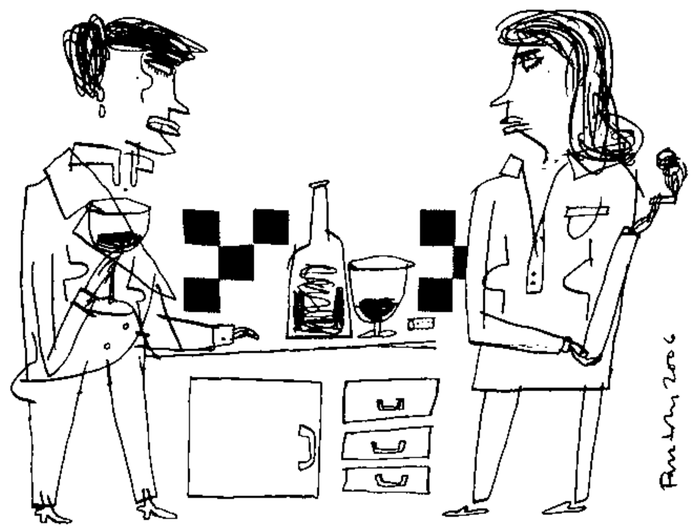
In the same issue, Library News, under a picture of people protesting about library closures, holding a banner with two different and obviously deliberate misspellings of the word "Library":

"Meanwhile this picture of protesters outside Talgarth library from the Brecon and Radnor Express suggests the need for more literacy facilities, not fewer."

Is this a case of biter bit, or has Lord Gnome ascended to new levels of subtlety?

ALAN BURLISON,
Via email.

Scenes You Seldom See



"The previous owners had much better taste than we have so we've left the bathroom, kitchen, decor and garden just as they are"

Belarus: real suffering

Sir,

I worked in public health and have read Private Eye for over 30 years. I always read your occasional series 'from Our Own Correspondent' with detached interest, but I had a particular interest in the "Letter From Minsk", Eye 1164, since I am involved as a volunteer with a Chernobyl children's charity, having both hosted children and toured Belarus this year.

I do not take issue with the criticisms made of the Belarus government, including the temptation for a poor country to rely too much on foreign charity, nor even to the suggestion that the psychological problems arising from the disaster may be more harmful than the physical ones. However the latter are real, as are evidenced by the necessity of building children's cancer hospitals now treating babies born with leukaemia, and the visible improvement in the health, and reportedly survival, of ordinary children following a four-week holiday abroad.

The comment about the children staying at home, supported by direct donations, presumably refers to the recent development of rehabilitation camps in Belarus. The idea is that children spend three weeks in these camps, having uncontaminated, and hence imported and expensive, food and drink to flush radioactive isotopes out of the body, at least temporarily. Additional specialist treatments are also given in the camps to the less well children.

I had often wondered whether your letters were written by residents of the country concerned, or by British reporters. However there now has to be the suspicion that they may be planted by the British government, in this case perhaps with a contribution from the pro-nuclear lobby. I find it hard to believe that the Eye would be sympathetic to such a point of view.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PINDER,
Lightwater.

Own goal

Sir,

You really should stick to rugger or hockey or what ever it is you were forced to play at public school.

Your Premiershits cartoon (Eye 1164) like many before it vividly displays your ignorance of the Premiership and football (you probably call it soccer) in general.

Chelsea as any fool knows continues to have one of the smallest squads in the premiership – the current squad is 22, down from 24 last year which was still one of the smallest in the league.

So please try and grasp a basic understanding of the game prior to further pathetic attempts at football humour.

Your persistent subscriber,
KEITH LEE,
Surrey.

O·B·N

"The market is there for her. She appeals to everyone from glamorous women to students and girls on council estates. She's not a one-trick pony, only appealing to one sort of man or woman. Everyone can identify with something about Kate and that's why she tops my chart... The person that she has become is far more than a supermodel – I don't think there's a word for it yet!"

BEZ (on Kate Moss)
Time Out

Submitted by Francis Harvey.

£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.

Crop chemicals: no smoke

Sir,

The "Muckspreader" account of the government's response to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report into the bystander effect (Eye 1164) misses a key fact. At the RCEP press conference on 22 Sept 2005, Sir Tom Blundell, chairman, confirmed that there was no scientific evidence to support the claims. "There was no smoking gun" he said, and recommended that more research is needed.

DEFRA has responded following advice from the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) by announcing that it has commissioned a £900,000 research project to further investigate any possible links to Parkinson's.

As an industry we fully comply with comprehensive regulation and actively promote best practice for the safe use of our products. We support the principle that regulatory decisions should be made on the basis of sound scientific evidence.

Yours faithfully
PETER SANGUINETTI,
Crop Protection Association.

Ill wind?

Dear Muckspreader,

You certainly seem to have been spreading some rather well rotted 'bull' in your last issue.

The smell of your output indicates that you have taken on board the material fed to you by single-interest groups, without analysing the quality of the content.

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in its report could not conclude that pesticides had been the cause of the ill health reported by bystanders.

The simple fact is that if bystanders were at any risk due to pesticide exposures then rural and urban fringe populations would show disproportionally higher rates of the health problems you mention relative to the UK population – not proven.

Spread the facts, not fiction!

Yours sincerely,
HAZEL DOONAN,
Head of Agronomy and Crop Protection Sector, Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC).

TEXT FOR TODAY

God is our refuse and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Psalms (46:1)

The Shields Gazette

Poor relief

Sir,

I noted with some interest a recent correspondent citing Lord Macnaughten's seminal categorisation of charitable purposes in IT Special Commissioners v Pemsel 3 TC 53.

However, Macnaughten was simply condensing the charitable purposes already established in the preamble to a statute of 1601, which stipulated that two such purposes were the relief of aged, impotent and poor people and the marriage of poor maids.

Of course, in our complex modern times, archaic charitable purposes are often subject to such conflation. Indeed, it is not impossible that you have in your archives some sort of photographic evidence demonstrating that relieved aged persons and poor maids (perhaps contemplating marriage) are often squeezed together in this way.

Regards,
MATTHEW SHORT, Via email.

● ***No, we have no such photograph and have no idea what you mean. Ed.***

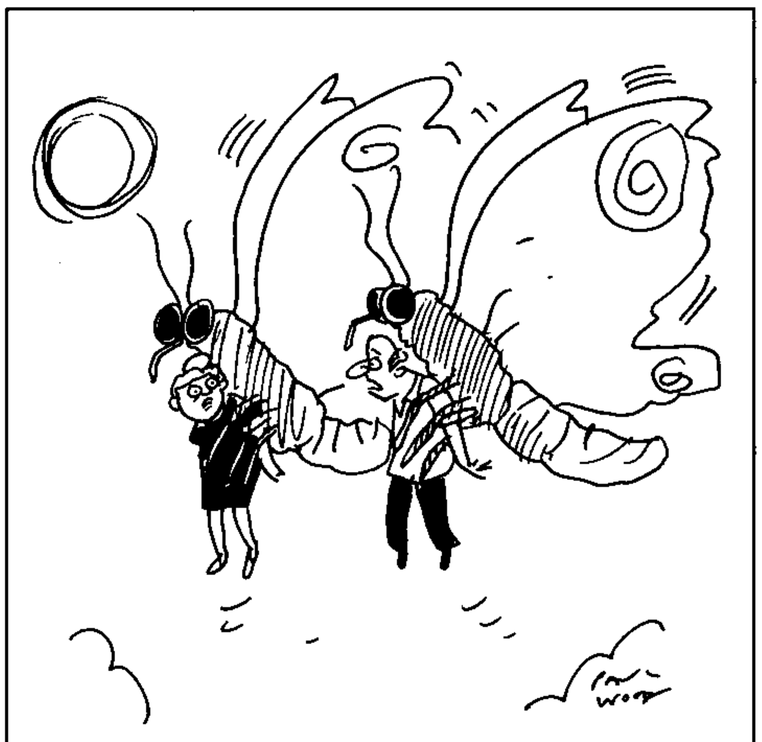
Lookalike

Dawes **Gina** **Piggy**

Sir

There appears to be a startling resemblance between tantrum-prone baby rearer Gina Ford, tantrum-prone fat fighter Marjorie Dawes and tantrum-prone porcine muppet Miss Piggy. Are they in any way related?

Yours faithfully
IAIN PATON/L NICHOLLS
Via email



"Let's face it, it's been a weird summer"

A jab for life

Sir,

MD, in his intemperate attack on Sir Liam Donaldson (Eye 1165), blames him for falling vaccination levels in the UK. Perhaps MD should have a few words with his colleague(s) from In the Back – whose hero worship for the real culprit, Andrew Wakefield, knows no bounds. Or don't you do joined up thinking at the Eye?

Otherwise keep up the good work,
BARRY WADESON,
Milton Keynes.

"They're crying out for plumbers in Poland"

Double ditty

Sir,

I think D.J. Lee (Eye, letters, 1165) is confusing Little Nell with the poem The Good Ship Venus, beloved of all rugby teams and hangers-on in the 50s.

Regards,
JOCKSTRAP,
Via email.

Totally riddled

Sir,

Your pedant in Eye 1165 makes the common mistake of assuming that there were many people going to St Ives in the ancient riddle. In fact there was only one person going to St Ives: the first-person narrator.

"As I was going to St. Ives, I met a man with 7 wives. Each wife had 7 sacks; each sack had 7 cats. Each cat had 7 kits: kits, cats, sacks, and wives. How many were going to St Ives?"

Besides that, a man with seven wives only adds up to eight people, which isn't as many as ten thousand...

Best wishes,
NIGEL AYERS,
Lostwithiel, Cornwall.

Hiss parade

Sir,

Was Pseuds Corner the right place to include band manager Lou Pearlman's morbidly cynical remarks to Music Week in which he boasts about exploiting a little girl dying of cancer to boost CD sales (Eye 1165)?

This is more than pseudish – it is revolting and reveals (presumably inadvertently) once and for all the gruesome Geldof/Bono-inspired music biz "charridee" garbage for what it is.

MARTIN KENNEDY,
Via email.

LUVVIES

"At 20 I auditioned with the director Michael Winterbottom for the lead in his controversial and sexually explicit film *9 Songs*. I wanted people to question their own moral identities as I had... I sacrificed myself so that the audience could find out a little more about themselves."

MARGOT STILLEY
Sunday Times

Submitted by Rhoda Koenig.

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

More fuel you

Sir,

Dr B. Ching ridicules councils in Birmingham and Ealing for scrapping or proposing to scrap bus lanes (Eye 1164). He is wrong to attack these moves, for two reasons.

First, simple common sense economics. Just as people generally use state schools because they can't afford private schools and get NHS treatment because they can't afford private medicine, they use public transport because they can't afford private transport. On average, bus passengers who are employed at all (many are pensioners, students, schoolchildren or the unemployed) earn far less than car users. This is because their time is less valuable to the economy. It therefore makes no sense whatever to give them priority over people in cars.

Secondly, a lot of the arguments for public transport are based on misrepresentations. If people are to use buses, they must have the flexibility of buses running all day. Whilst buses are full at peak times, they are mostly pretty empty the rest of the time. Huge diesel engines pump out horrible emissions in large doses, made worse by the fact they have to stop and start all the time. Queues of traffic build up behind them, who are also obliged to stop and accelerate away again due to the presence of the bus, thus increasing their emissions far beyond what they would have been if they had been able to keep a steady speed, unobstructed by buses. On the BBC news recently, we were treated to a lecture on the evils of cars – a car journey from London to Edinburgh, we were told, puts out 100kg of carbon dioxide per person, a plane journey 50kg, a train journey just 25kg.

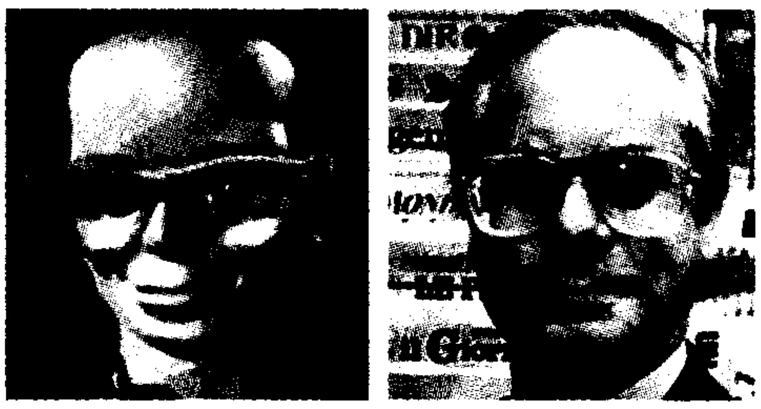
This assumes, of course, a heavily polluting car with only one person in it, a full plane (reasonably common) and a full train (outside peak hours, very uncommon) – all very misleading. This was to explain the government's proposal to introduce road charging. And how do they intend this to work? Why, we will be charged a lot more for using busy roads at peak hours, to encourage us to use the trains. The trains are full to bursting on busy routes at peak hours. In the local news for the West Midlands immediately following this broadcast, we learned that many through routes by train would be scrapped since New Street Station in Birmingham is already working at double the capacity for which it was designed. The infrastructure simply would not stand more people travelling on the train at peak times having been driven out of their cars by road pricing.

Your magazine has a noble tradition of clearing away the bullshit put out by government and lobbyists – you let yourself down by being taken in by the public transport lobby.

Yours,
RICHARD AUSTEN-BAKER,
Lecturer in Law, Lancaster University Law School.

"I can beat up immigrants"

Lookalike



Hoggart **Brains**

Sir,

Simon Hoggart may have given up his job as presenter of Radio 4's The News Quiz, but it would appear that he already has work lined up with International Rescue.

Yours,
ANDY TURNER,
Via email.

The final blow

Sir,

After reading about the Health & Safety concern for Pipe Blowers (Eye 1165) I am sure that the termination of H&S will be when Birth is forbidden because of the certainty of Death.

DAVID HARE,
Wokingham.

Land grabbed

Sir,

Good old Private Eye – always claiming the moral high ground, but what's this on the back page of issue 1164? – a full-page ad from Charterhouse Homes to persuade greedy people to sell off their beautiful town gardens in scale with the houses that occupy them in order to build more houses in so-called brownfield sites. What does Piloti think of that then?

BILL BEAR,
Laxfield, Suffolk.

SOLUTIONS

"John Lewis School Solutions" – *school uniforms*

"Dun-Line Passenger Travel Solutions" – *coaches*

"Where2Guv: The Taxi Solution" – *taxis*

"The ultimate digital photo storage solution" – *photo album*

"B&Q Showering Solutions" – *showers*

"High Access Solutions from Obscura Access" - *ladders*

All submitted by readers

Hole truth

Sir,

Oh Dear! Chris Riches' contribution to Colemanballs (Eye 1164) is another example of irony being taken far too seriously! Monty's comments were in the vein of Lee Trevino who frequently claimed that "...if the ball doesn't reach the hole, there's a 95 per cent chance it won't go in". Pip Pip! £10 please?

JONATHAN D. BENYON,
Via email.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"Every game for England is a game for England."
STEVE McCLAREN
(Ollie Doward)

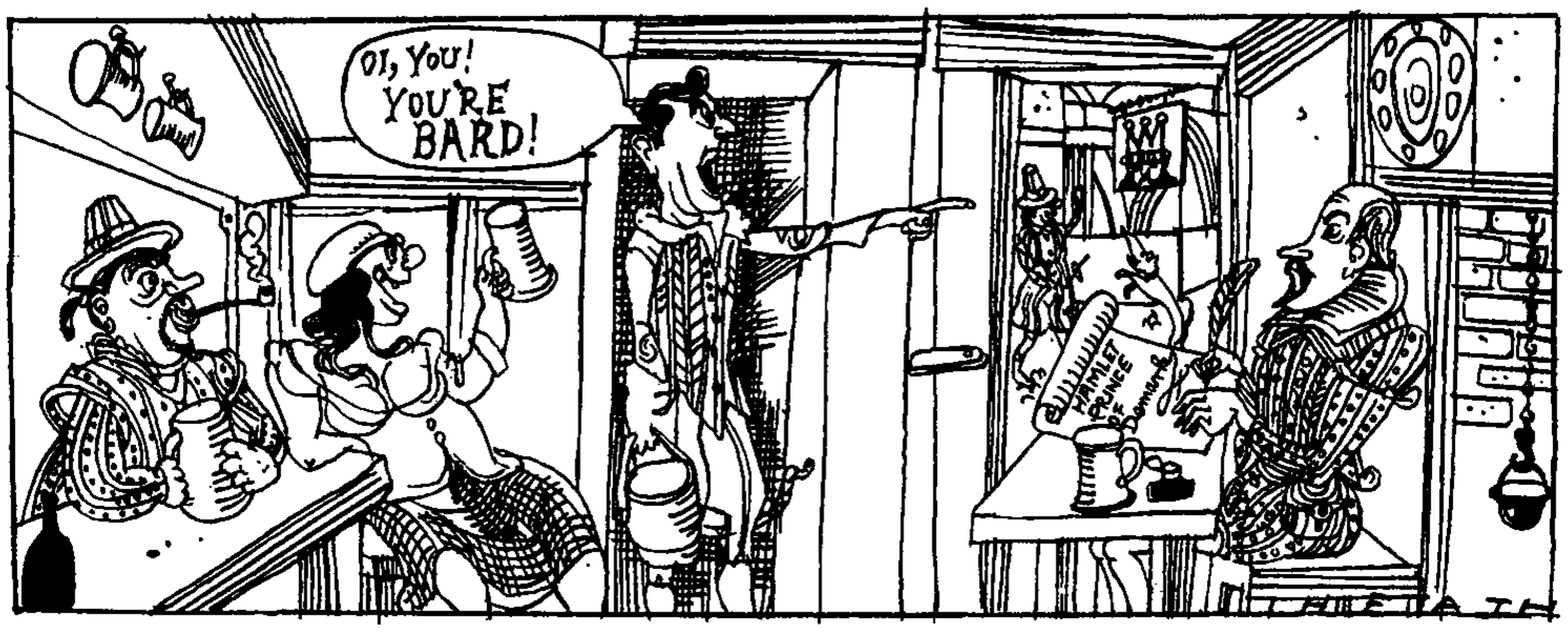
"He's got heart and lungs of steel if that's the right anachronism."
Commentator, BBC
(Tony Wake)

"He'll have a pair of sharp and canny shoulders to listen to."
DAVID PLATT, Radio Four
(Geoff Freeman)

"And Stephen Carr is rotating his right kneecap and grimacing."
Commentator, Radio Newcastle
(Dan Summerbell)

"You've got to put square pegs in square holes – not the other way round."
STEVE CLARIDGE, Radio 5 Live
(Norman O'Fee)

THE REGULARS (1600) HEATH



Letter from **Nice**

from Our Own Correspondent

LIBERTY, egality and fraternity – these are the principles on which our great republic was founded, and the reasons why we had to topple the old order of inherited privilege and dissolute corruption. It is a simple lesson of history, but one that seems lost on our good citizens down south.

Nice is the gateway to the fading glamour of the Côte d'Azur – and a throw-back to an ancient, altogether more regal past. Elections here are welcome, but only because the outcome is rarely in question. Apart from a four-year interlude in the 1940s, the Médecin family dominated 20th-century city politics; Jean was mayor from 1928 until his death – in office – in December 1965. His son, Jacques, was elected mayor the following February and served four terms until 1990.

And we celebrate these decades of selfless public service. The city council two years ago voted to rename the Forum Masséna in honour of Jacques Médecin. The busy avenue running north from Masséna is already named after the much-loved Jean Médecin. The mean-minded and spiteful orchestrated a huge public outcry. The préfet of the Alpes Maritimes department opposed the decision. Nice's senator-mayor, Jacques Peyrat, appealed. He lost, complaining bitterly about how the will of the people had been betrayed.

Jacques Médecin gave us the Museums of Art Naif and Modern Art, the Theatre of Nice and the Acropolis Palais des Congrès. Then again, he also knocked down our splendid municipal casino, and the Belle Epoque Ruhl Hotel on the Promenade des Anglais – now a deeply unattractive Meridien. But our former mayor is remembered for nothing so much as the manner of his leaving us.

On 9 September 1990 Jacques flew off on a business trip to Japan and, well, never came back. Busybodies in our police force finally caught up with him four years later in Punta del Este in Uruguay. He was extradited back to France to face various charges including passive corruption and misappropriation of public funds. A numbered Swiss bank account and envelopes stuffed with cash appeared to play their part. He was sentenced to 3½ years and fined one million francs, then returned to Uruguay, where he died in 1998.

Gone, but not forgotten. One of "Jacquou's" unfinished projects was the construction of a prestigious new Town Hall overlooking the Mediterranean. The cleared site became a car-park with a view to die for. Peyrat wanted to use the plot to build a deluxe hotel complex. Alas, it seems old habits die hard. Pierre Reynaud, a local businessman, acting for British investment group Aérium representing one of the bidders, mysteriously had all his belongings stolen from storage. "I gave warning," he said. "If they weren't returned to me, I would spill the beans" They weren't and he has.

Reynaud says he was approached by Gérard Agostini and his son, René, two of Nice's underworld figures who assured him they could persuade the mayor to favour Reynaud's hotel group. A €1.2 million commission was mentioned. Investigators have yet to interview the Agostinis, as René is currently standing trial elsewhere for a double murder in Corsica in 2001. But in June Peyrat's director of protocol and the municipal police chief were arrested, questioned and bailed in connection with alleged influence-peddling.

Now the administrative tribunal of Nice has suspended debate by the council on the award of a hefty but much delayed contract to the CARI group to construct and manage a grand new stadium for the city – the original 2003 deal had to be scrapped after the director-general of city services was sentenced to five years (18 months suspended) for rigging the tender process. Similarly, idiosyncratic ways explain also why the square next to the Forum Masséna – as we must call it – is still a building site rather than a completed section of a new tram system.

With such a record, Peyrat naturally is going for another term. Bon viveur, Montecristo No.1-smoking Jacquou must be laughing in his grave. That's my boy!

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

"When I moved to this city five years ago, I became fascinated by the cryptic movie signs I saw everywhere," artist Christian Kliegel told reporters at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver. "They seemed like codes to me, so I began collecting them, like this neon yellow arrow pointing to the word 'Extras', or that Day-Glo orange sign over there, reading '4400.' When I had about a hundred, I organised this exhibition, and I consider the collection to be my own work of art. But now, the owners of the signs have started calling the police, complaining that I have literally stolen the show."

Kliegel was speaking after his one-man exhibition had been raided by the Vancouver police, at the request of local businesses. "The owner of Off-Set Rentals complained that he'd seen several of his signs in the gallery's windows," a police spokesman commented, "and he wasn't the only one. An assistant location manager for Kyle Productions has identified ten of the signs as belonging to his company, and other movie companies have also protested. We have spoken to the gallery owners, who have agreed to give the signs back to their rightful owners when the exhibition ends. So under the circumstances, we will allow it to remain open, even though the art works are clearly stolen property."

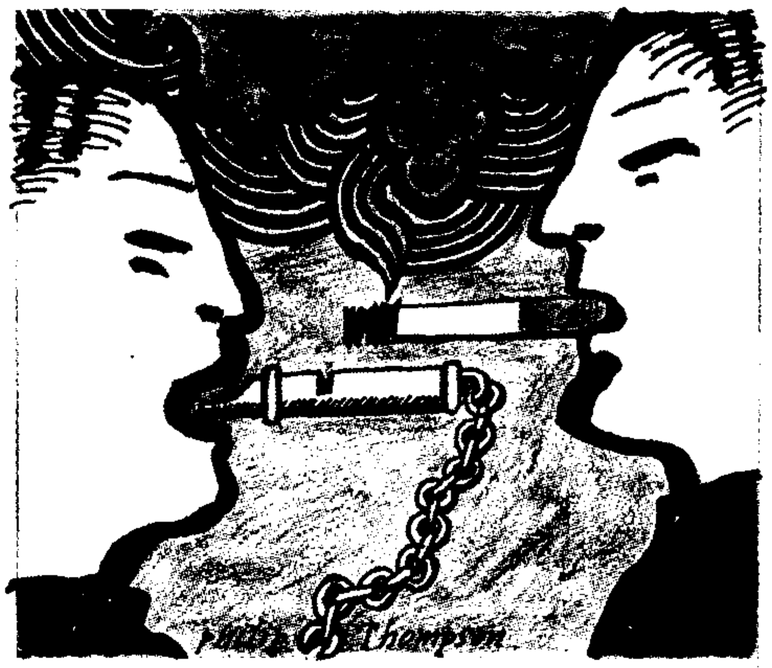
However, Kliegel was unrepentant about his larceny. "The movie companies accuse me of theft, but in a way, they're stealing the city of Vancouver, because it's so cheap to film here. They put up a few signs, change it to look like another city, make their movie, then move on, without giving Vancouver any credit. It's the lack of a reciprocal relationship that I wanted to highlight, by taking those signs." *(Vancouver Courier, 7/7/06. Spotter: Brendan Joseph O'Byrne)*

– o –

"The English football fans came into the station, saying that they'd lost their hire car," a spokesman for the Cologne police told reporters, "and asking us to help them find it. They explained that they'd parked it in a side street, and had written down the name of the road sign – 'Einbahn Strasse' – in their diary, so they'd be able to find it again after the match. But after the game, they discovered to their horror that every other street in the inner city seemed to have the same name. We explained to them that that was because 'Einbahn Strasse' is the sign we use to inform drivers that they are entering a one-way street. Then we went off in search of their car." (The Age [Australia], 21/6/06. Spotter: J K McCarthy)

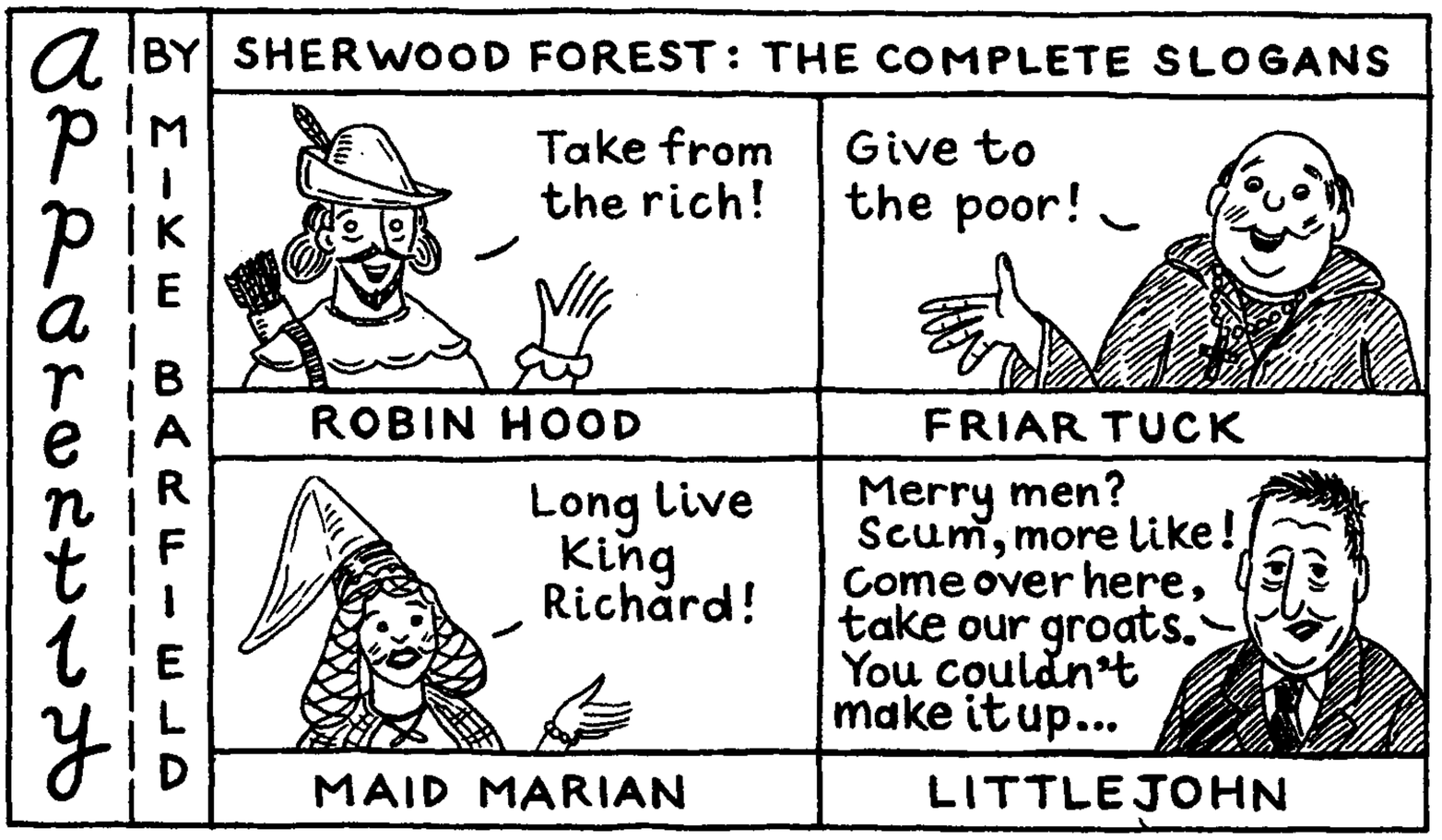
– o –

"This is the first railway line ever to reach Tibet," Zhu Zhensheng of the Beijing-Tibet railway project told reporters, "and it is a great miracle for the world, as well as a magnificent feat of Chinese engineering. The trains will travel at speeds of 160 kph, and much of the journey is above 5,000 metres, in the Tibetan permafrost, where the air there is very thin. Therefore, the cars will be sealed, and oxygen will be pumped into the



carriages. And smoking will be strictly banned, because of the risk of spontaneous combustion."

"There is no reason to be alarmed," added Zhang Jianwei (President of the railway company operations), "it's going very well, there are no problems. We're very proud of our technology. But because of the danger of an explosion if someone lights a cigarette when the cars are oxygenated, we have 300 staff and policemen on board the train, to ensure that passengers do not strike a match. This is necessary, because two-thirds of Chinese men are addicted to smoking, and the journey takes forty-eight hours. We shall enforce the smoking ban at all times, and urge passengers to blow the whistle on any clandestine smokers, for their safety and comfort." *(World Tibet Network News, 10/7/06. Spotter: David Dallison)*


apparently
BY MIKE BARFIELD
SHERWOOD FOREST: THE COMPLETE SLOGANS
Take from the rich!
ROBIN HOOD
Give to the poor!
FRIAR TUCK
Long live King Richard!
MAID MARIAN
Merry men? Scum, more like! Come over here, take our groats. You couldn't make it up...
LITTLEJOHN

ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo,

Or should I say, "yo, everybody", as we say in Barbados, where as you know I've spent a few days recharging my batteries!

And many thanks, by the way, to Mr Reid for standing in so capably for Mr Prescott during my absence!

Not that I was really absent, because as I told you last time I managed to keep in 24/7 touch with parish affairs (even when I was scuba diving!)

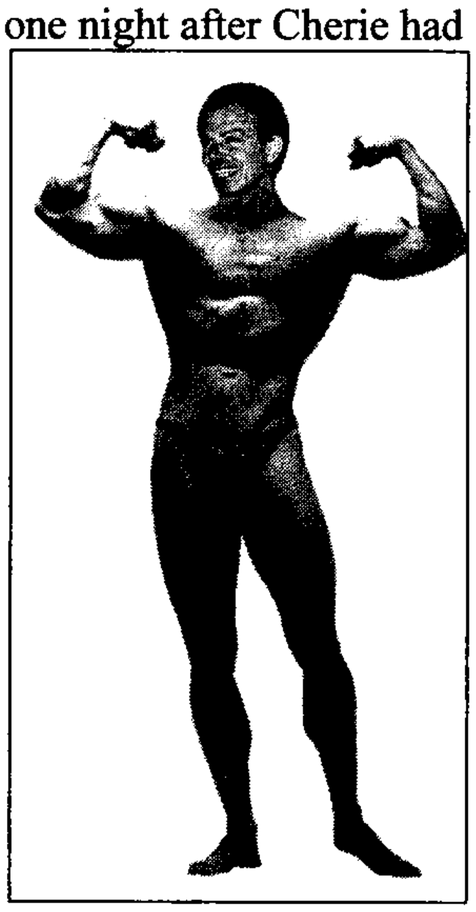
But now I'm back in the vicarage, I can see that there is a great deal for me to do.

And no, that doesn't include "retiring" as our friend in Tesco rather rudely suggested, shortly before he fell into the demonstration "Barbecue Pit" which were on special End-of-Summer offer at "£5.99 – Buy One, Get Three Free."

No, whatever the mutterings around the parish, even among one or two members of the PCC, I am not "in the Departure Lounge"!

In fact, I haven't even been through "Security" yet – and that, as we all know, takes a very long time these days!

No, I want to make it clear that, as I return to the fray, I have never felt fitter, healthier or, dare I say it, sexier (and let me hasten to add that it wasn't me who said it, it was our host Sir Cliff, as we sat on the verandah one night after Cherie had gone to bed!)



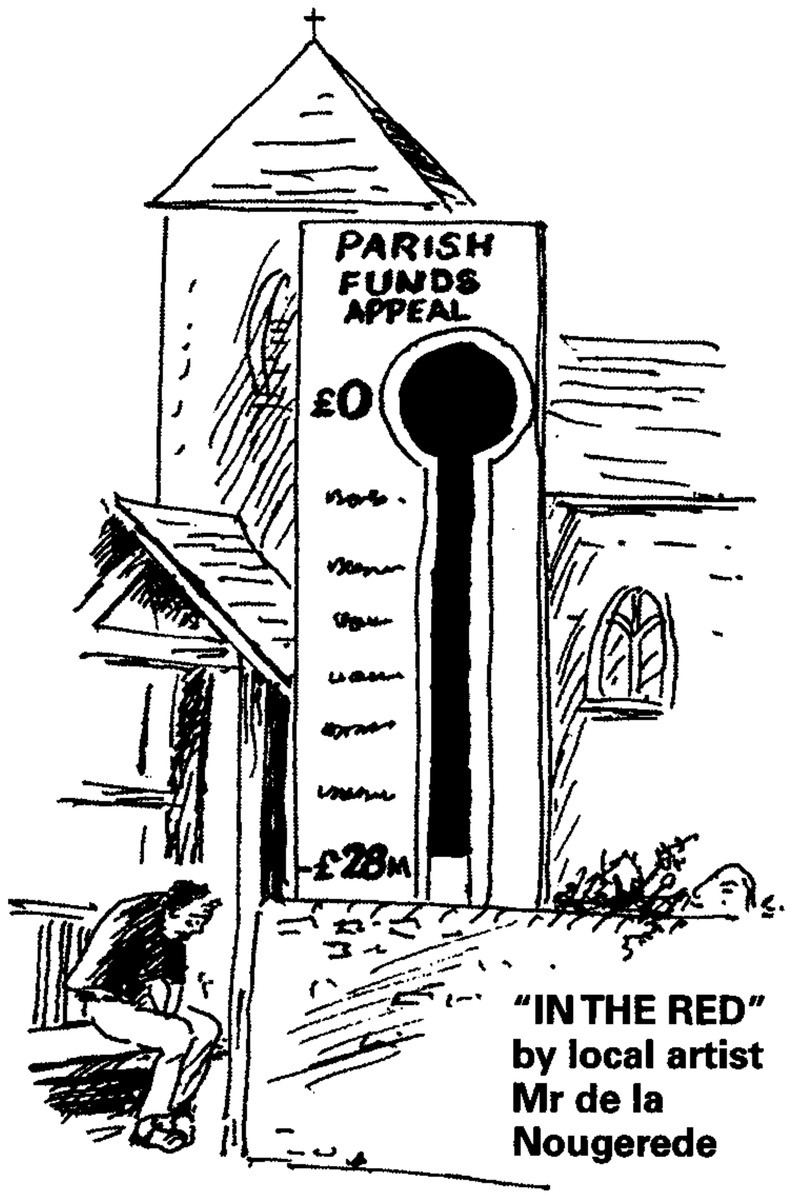
I think this "holiday snap" that Mr Campbell kindly developed for me with his new "Photoshop" device says it all!

And what, I ask you, is the first job on my "to do" list for the days that lie ahead.

Number One must be to bring peace to the warring nations of the Holy Land.

We have all found it rather embarrassing to see our friend Monsignor Chirac trying to "step in", with his offers of unlimited help, when all it turned out to amount to was sending a couple of baguettes, a few smelly cheeses, a string of onions and a small box of waterproof plasters!

No disrespect to the Monsignor, but I can't see this making much contribution to



"IN THE RED" by local artist Mr de la Nougerede

the peace process! In fact, frankly, I thought our friend Jacques was left looking like a bit of an idiot, with a generous helping of scrambled oeuf on his silly face!

What is really required here is for a major figure on the world ecumenical stage to offer to go out in person and bring all the quarrelling parties round the table, just as I did on our successful mission to St Gerry's in Belfast.

That is why I have let it be known to everyone in the Holy Land, whether they be Jew, Christian or Muslim, that I am personally ready to fly out at any time to meet them all.

In the words of that great hymn written by the saints Peter, Paul and Mary, "All my bags are packed, I'm ready to go. The taxi's waiting, he's blowing his horn."

Inspiring lines, aren't they?

So I've done everything I can, and I'm not going to get upset if people say, "No thanks, vicar, we don't want you over here, you would only make things worse."

Look, if those guys in Lebanon don't want me to sort out their problems for them, that's their perfect right!

I'm the first to put up my hand and say, "Yes, I understand! I feel your pain! I know where you're coming from! I hear what you say!" (From the Pleatitudes, taken from the Gospel According to St Matthew Parris.)

So don't think for a minute that I am in any way offended when a bunch of small-minded, ungrateful Lebanese trouble-makers ignore my generous offer to solve all their problems!

Of course I don't mind. I don't even mind when they accuse me of siding with Rabbi Ehud and the Rev. Dubya in an attempt to destroy them!

Stupid or what? Anyway, if they don't want me, I'd like them to know that I've still got plenty of very important things to do back here in the parish!

Top of the list is the need to streamline our parish outing, to avoid any repetition of that thoroughly unnecessary incident at Brighton last year when we had to eject a senile old gentleman Mr Wolfgang, for making pro-terrorist comments while Mr Straw was trying to remember what the Rev. Dubya had told me to tell him to say!

Well, it's not going to happen again! My plan is as follows:

1. To ensure that only bona-fide loyal parishioners are allowed onto the charabanc, we will be introducing a new "security system" and people will not be allowed to bring onto the coach any bottles of alcohol (sorry Mr Marshall-Andrews, but we don't want you starting one of your usual fights on the way home!)

The following items of hand luggage will, however, be allowed, if carried in a see-through bag: (i) copies of Cherie's book *I Am A Goldfish*: *Life Inside the Vicarage*; (ii) I ❤ Dubya baseball caps; (iii) cheque books and credit cards. (Thanks to Mr Reid for putting this security package together!)

2. Also for security reasons, only one talk will be allowed by a member of the PCC. This will have the added advantage of making this year's proceedings much shorter than usual, giving parishioners the chance to enjoy their day out at the seaside, which is after all the whole point of the parish outing anyway!

No one wants to sit around having to listen to Mr Brown banging on for hours with his latest excuses for messing up the parish accounts!

No, we want to have some seaside fun, but, watch out kids, not too many ice creams and chips, or you'll come home looking like Mr Prescott! And you wouldn't want to see a picture of him in his bathing suit in this newsletter, would you? Urgh! (No offence, John!)

And, by the way, I've appointed Mrs Flint to be the parish's first-ever "Obesity Czar", to go round the parish handing out spot fines to anyone who has a body mass index of more than 27.34!

Caroline is also going to be slapping a new kind of order on offenders, like an ASBO but renamed a "FATSO"!, which

will keep overweight parishioners off the streets!

3. The one talk will of course be delivered by myself, and I hereby pledge that I will not speak for more than two hours! (including an hour for applause).

See yo all there!

Yours

Tony

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

I expect many of you have recently received this lovely card sent out by our treasurer Mr Brown, showing off his new family! But where have we seen this idea before? Oh yes, doesn't it rather remind us of the cards Cherie and I used to send out at Christmas-time in the years after Leo was born? I'm not of course suggesting that Mr Brown has copied my idea in some kind of mistaken bid for popularity. But isn't that the first thought that might come into anyone's mind?

And really, Gordon, it's asking a bit much of people to believe that you really look as young as you do in this picture. You really mustn't be surprised if people say that you've doctored the picture with this new Photoshop device. Who do you think you are, Gordon? Posh Spice? You should spend rather more time trying to sort out those accounts and rather less time worrying about how old you look!

TB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A real highlight of this autumn will be readings from the private diaries of Mr Blunkett, formerly head of our Neighbourhood Watch.

Mr Blunkett will be reading extracts in the Village Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 7pm-10pm, between 24 September and 24 December. He promises to "really spill the beans" on what really went on behind the scenes during his tempestuous relationship with Mrs Kimberley!

Adults only. Half price to any single ladies of the parish who would like to have his babies!

The Labour Party An Apology

IN RECENT years we in the Labour Party may have given the impression that anyone who dared to mention the word 'immigration' in a political context was clearly a shameless racist, stirring up prejudice and emulating the worst excesses of the BNP. Official statements such as 'Howard Plays The Race Card', 'IDS Plays The Race Card', and 'Hague Plays The Race Card', may have led voters to think that the Tory Party were essentially a ruthless gang of extremist lunatics dancing round effigies of their spiritual leader Enoch Powell, while holding flaming torches and wearing pointy hats.

We now realise that there are far too many of these foreigners coming over here, taking our jobs, working hard and voting Conservative. Blimey, seen those Romanians, they're a dodgy lot. And those Bulgarians? They'd slit your throat as soon as look at you. As for the Turks, they're next, 90 million of them. And they're all Muslims. Where do you say you want to go? Chelsea Bridge is closed, Guv let's go that way.

© A. Cabbie, Minister for Immigration at the Home Office.

CAMERON ACTS ON SHORTLISTS

by Our Political Staff **Peter O'Bore**

THE Conservative leader, Mr David Cameron, today told his party that the makeup of shortlists for prospective parliamentary candidates had to change if the Conservative party was ever to be elected again.

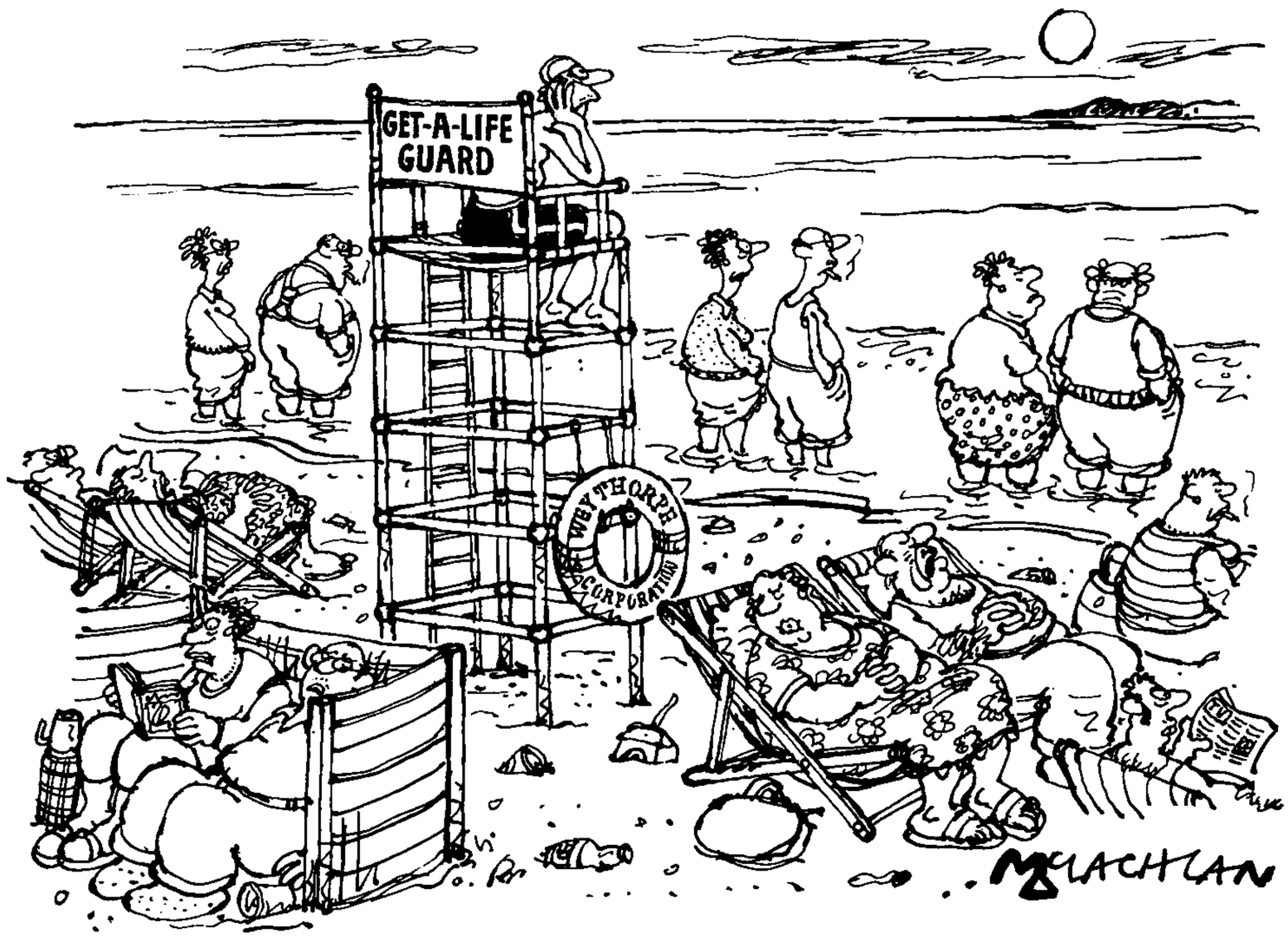
"We have to reflect modern Britain as it is," he said, "and that means changing the balance of our candidates.

"To be honest, there are far too many Tories on the lists and I would urge local parties to select non-Tories instead.

"We must positively discriminate in favour of candidates who don't share any of our views in order to appeal to the public in general."

Agenda Bender

Mr Cameron would not commit himself publicly to so-called "all-Labour lists" but in private he acknowledged that an exclusive choice of prospective Labour candidates was the only way forward for the Conservative party.



11 ARRESTED IN TERROR SWOOP

by Our Cricket Staff **Christopher Martin-Jihad and Henry Blowup**

ELEVEN Pakistani-born cricketers were today being questioned by the ICC in relation to attempts to terrorise the English batsmen.

The suspects, some of whom were overheard plotting to destroy the opening partnership with a lethal mixture of leather and willow, have denied all charges.

But investigators claim to have solid evidence against the suspects, including a video of the leader, Inzamam al-Qaeda, volunteering to commit professional suicide by staying in the dressing room after the tea interval.

LATE SCORE: England 9 for 11

WORLD ON THE BRINK OF WAR

by our Cricket Staff **Lunchtime O'Val**

THE WORLD held its breath yesterday as the great "ball-tampering crisis" entered its 94th day, threatening to plunge the world into an Armageddon-style showdown that would make Hiroshima seem like a vicarage tea party.

Not since the Cuba crisis, have two nuclear powers – Britain and Pakistan – stood head to head on the precipice of disaster that threatens to trigger off an Armageddon-style *(You've done this bit, get on with it. Ed.)*

Instant Kofi

The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan cut short his holidays to call for an immediate ceasefire to allow tempers to cool.

He pleaded with all sides in this terrifying conflict to withdraw to their own dressing rooms, before there was any more tragic loss of revenue to the ECB, the PCB or the JCB. *(Shurely shome mishtake? Ed.)*

Hair Hitler

But Darrell Hair, the iron man at the centre of the controversy, who has brought the world to the brink of an Armageddon-style *(I told you that you'd done this bit already, Ed)* last night refused to back down.

In an uncompromising statement issued to the Brisbane Boomerang, Mr Hair said, "I stand by my decision, whatever the consequences for Planet Earth."

"There may be no evidence of weapons of mass destruction," he declared, "but I believe I was still right to invade Pakistan."

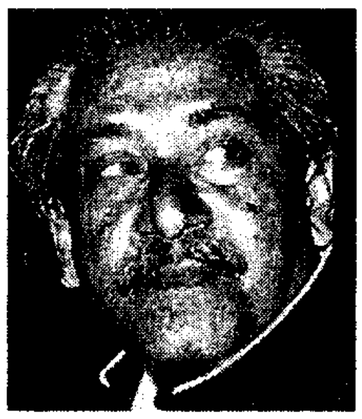
Meanwhile Pakistan's president Mustrushoff ordered his country's 10 million strong army onto full alert.

"No one can trifle with the good name of Pakistan," he told a vast cheering crowd in Tampabad, "without expecting a nuclear missile through their middle stump."

What They Said About The Issue That Is Dragging The World To War

IMRAN KHAN, former Pakistan cricket captain and ex-husband of world-famous heiress Jemima Puddleduck, daughter of the late man-eating shark Sir Jams Fishpaste.

"This kind of deplorable thing would never have happened in the days when I was captain. It could have all been settled quite amicably over a quiet cup of tea. And remember, vote for me in next year's presidential elections."



MOHAMMED AL-GUSSETT, President Emeritus of the Lahore Cricket Club.

"Look here, old boy, this just isn't cricket, is it?

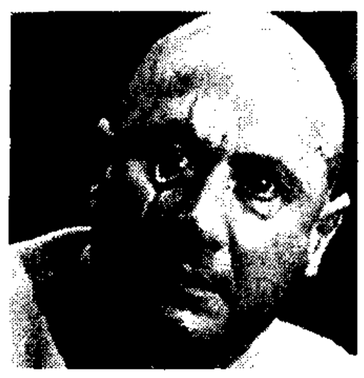
"I mean, this umpire-fellow is being a tad unreasonable, but let's face it, the English are a pretty excitable bunch, and we don't want to get the whole thing out of proportion, what?"

"DICKIE" BIRD, former world-famous umpire and author of "Dickie Bird, the Life Story of Dickie Bird, as told to Dickie Bird by Himself."

"'Appen, this would never have happened in my day. I would have banged t'heads t'gether, and told them they had to bloody well play on until it t'were dark, not play t'silly boogers in t'dressing room."

SIR STEPHEN FRY, world-famous cricket lover and author of hit musical "Me and My Guy".

"To those of us who love the sound of leather on bottom, it is a sad day when someone is accused of doing naughty things with his balls. Whoops! Bless!"



HENRY BLOFELD, Telegraph cricket writer and former head of Smersh.

"Gosh, I say, someone's sent me a cake. That'll make tomorrow's headlines. Hang on, everyone seems to have left the field. That's rum. It must be bad light. Or possibly tea."

Letters *to the Editor*

Not cricket

SIR – Contrary to the widespread claim that no Test Match has ever been forfeited before, might I refer your readers to the game played in 1911 between England and the Indian principality of Tikka Massala. Shortly after lunch on the second day, when the England score stood at 764 for 1, a number of man-eating tigers were released onto the field where they promptly consumed the two batsmen at the wicket, the Hon Frederick Canedish-Smythe and P.V.R.M. Steggles, the Warwickshire professional. The England captain, Lord Basingstoke, quite rightly refused to allow the match to continue until the two batsmen were given Christian burials. The umpire, His Royal Highness The Tandoori of Bhindi Gosht, was left with no choice but to declare that the England XI had forfeited the match. When it was later alleged by the family of P.V.R.M. Steggles that the tigers had been released onto the field of play on the personal orders of His Highness The Tandoori, the ensuing riots lasted for several weeks, resulting in the deaths of several million hapless Indians. If any of your readers would like a fuller account of this distressing incident, they will find it in my book *Black Day At Naipur* (privately printed, Toppo Press, £25.99).

The Late Sir Harry 'Toppo' Thompson
Cover Drive, Ruislip.

SIR – Not so much 'The Empire Strikes Back' as 'The Umpire Strikes Back'!

Mike Giggler
Via email.

Letters and emails

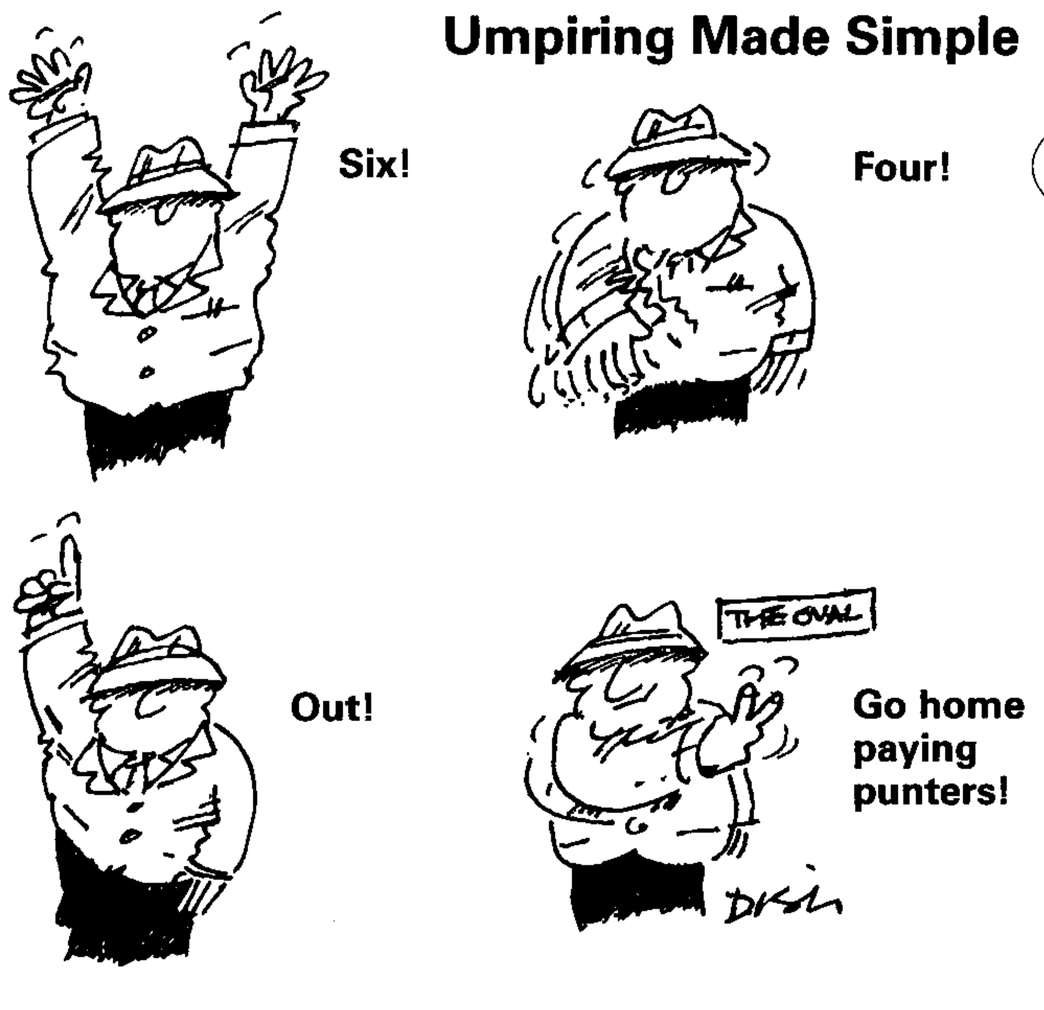
Cricket and the Industrial/ Military Complex

Dear Sir,
...er... er... the sight of a colonialist white umpire blatantly discriminating against a team of ethnic minority cricketers from the former subject peoples of the British Empire is a sickening and totally nauseating reminder that cricket is a direct legacy of the fascist, imperialist, elitist, sexist, homophobic, public school world... er... as I was saying, it was entirely sickening to my mind to see played out once again the only too predictable paradigm, as predicted by Karl Marx in his seminal pamphlet *Cricket As A Metaphor For Bourgeois Exploitation Of The Proletariat* (1849, now reissued by the Wheen Press).
Yours in comradeship,

D. Spart
14 The Old Squat, Tunbridge Wells.

Sir,
'Silly mid-on'? Surely 'silly umpire'?!

Mike Giggler
Via email.

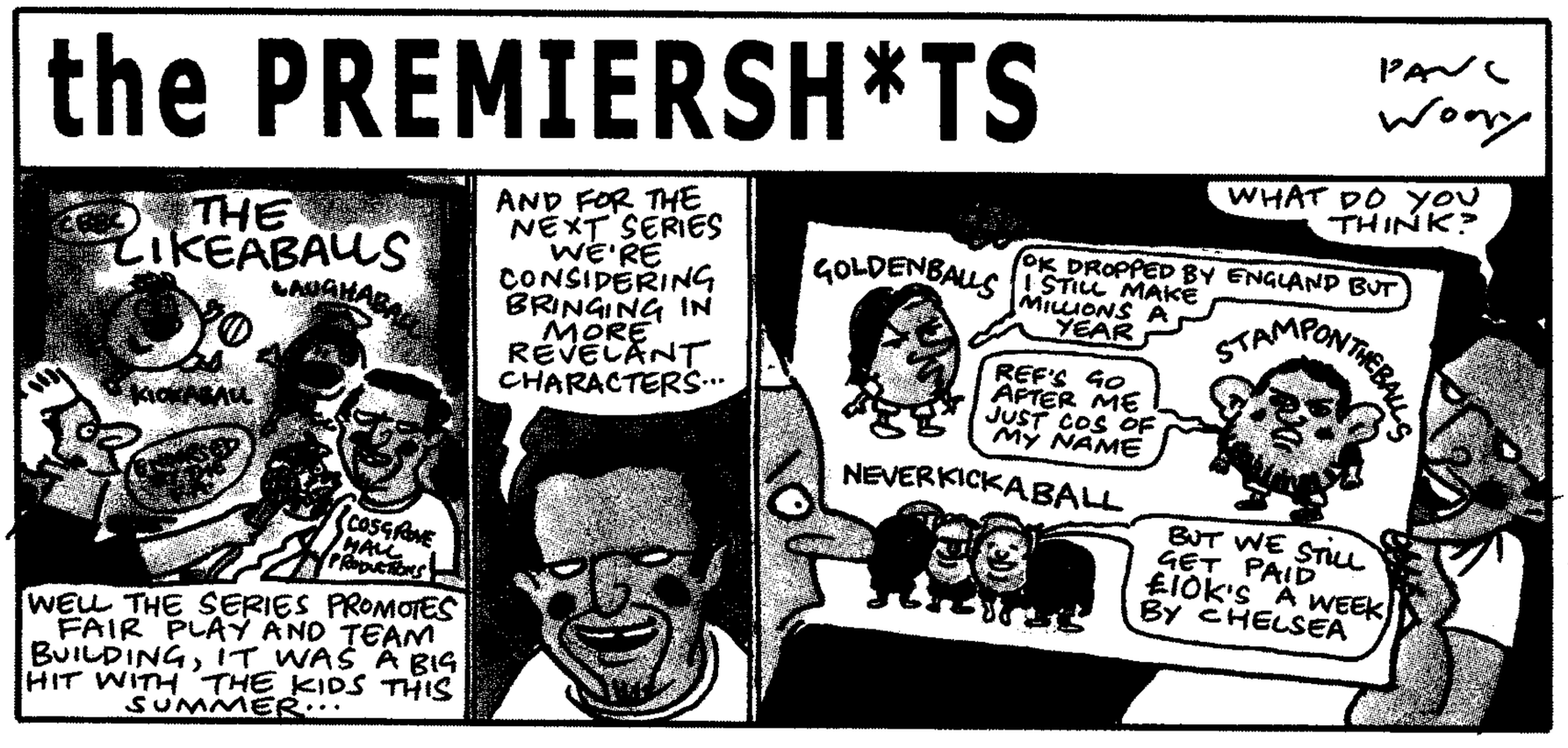


LATE BIG BROTHER NEWS

A BIG BROTHER contestant today apologised to the show's fans after a tabloid newspaper revealed that she used to work in a 9-to-5 office job for an insurance company.

"I know the revelation that I wasn't a drug-snorting £500-a-night hooker is going to stun my fans, and all I can say is that I'm deeply ashamed of the time I spent filing claims at my desk," said *(cont. p. 94)*

BIG BROTHER ROMANCE


the PREMIERSH*TS
PAUL WOOLEY
THE LIKEABALLS
LAUGHABALL
KICKABALL
COSGROVE HALL PRODUCTIONS
WELL THE SERIES PROMOTES FAIR PLAY AND TEAM BUILDING, IT WAS A BIG HIT WITH THE KIDS THIS SUMMER...
AND FOR THE NEXT SERIES WE'RE CONSIDERING BRINGING IN MORE REVELANT CHARACTERS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
GOLDENBALLS
OK DROPPED BY ENGLAND BUT I STILL MAKE MILLIONS A YEAR
REF'S GO AFTER ME JUST COS OF MY NAME
STAMPONTHEBALLS
NEVERKICKABALL
BUT WE STILL GET PAID £10K'S A WEEK BY CHELSEA

ST CAKES CELEBRATES RECORD GCSE RESULTS

by Our Education Staff **Lunchtime O'Level**

THE PRESTIGIOUS Midlands independent £40,000-a-day boys public school today announced a record number of overall passes at GCSE.

Said the headmaster Mr R.G.J. Kipling "We are, of course, delighted. 110% of our pupils have got A* or better this year. I think this proves conclusively that our educational standards are higher than ever – as indeed are our fees."

Critics however, point to Kipling's controversial decision to allow pupils to opt for so called 'easy subjects' rather than the core disciplines. Kipling admitted that all of his GCSE candidates this year had only taken one subject – Wayne Rooney Studies.

Pass Poor

"WRS is one of the hardest subjects on the curriculum," he said. "Boys are required not only to fill in their names, showing their workings, but have to remember the pin number of their father's credit card. So much for being easy!"

Could YOU have passed GCSE Wayne Rooney Studies?

WRS GCSE Multiple-choice module

1. Is Wayne Rooney?

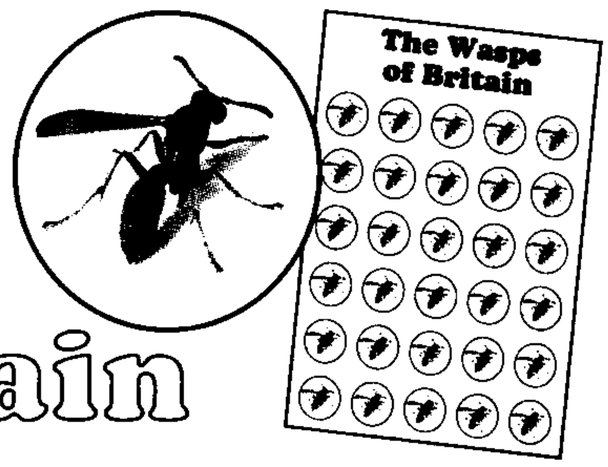
a) A Manchester United striker?
b) A spud-faced nipper?
c) The boyfriend of lovely shopaholic Coleen?
d) The author of 'Wayne Rooney – My life So Far'

Candidates should attempt only one question. Time allowed: 90 minutes

ON OTHER PAGES
Fruity girl at St Crumpet's gets 120 A*'s. Full story plus pics!

FREE with this week's Eye

The Wasps of Britain



A full-colour wall chart of the best-loved of British wasps.

"Come on, Mrs B – you were supposed to be drunk and causing a scene thirty minutes ago"

DAILY Mirror

The Mirror says

WHAT a disgusting spectacle? It's really revolting isn't? The sight of us putting in pictures of Tony Blair topless!

No wonder you are chucking up your Weetabix?! And then you have hacks like me saying he looks flabby and overweight? Sad or what?

What kind of Prime Minister lets us sneak up on him and take pictures of him in his swimming trunks from two miles away? And then allows me to say how porky he is? It makes you sick, doesn't it?? Come off it me!?! Get a life you fat git!?

© *The Mirror and All Other Newspapers.*

NEW GOVT INITIATIVE TO CUT PRISON NUMBERS

by Our Home Affairs Staff **M.T. Cells**

A HOME Office spokesman last night announced a bold new plan to reduce drastically the number of prisoners in Britain's overcrowded jails.

"We have decided on a policy in which anyone convicted of a crime would instantly be set free,"he told reporters.

"This would ease the pressure on our jails no end and would make sentencing for judges much more consistent. Offenders will now know for sure how long they are going to serve for any offence, i.e. no time at all."

A spokesman for the Prisoner's Union (LOCUP) however claimed the measures did not go far enough.

"We need an amnesty for all those already in prison and substantial compensation for all those who have ever been inside."

Let's NOT Parlez Franglais!

Lesson 94 Dans le Classroom

Teacher: Bonjour la classe.

Pupils: You what?

Teacher: Aujourd'hui nous allons learn to parler Francais.

Pupils: Leave it out! We're going to do media studies.

Teacher: Non! Non! Non! What about les langues modern – le French, le German, l'Italian? C'est important pour le future!

Pupils: Bollocks! Who needs French when everyone speaks English?

Teacher: OK, alors. Aujourd'hui we will learn to speak English.

Pupils: Fuck off!

The Eye helps you decide

ARE YOU OBESE?

10 Tell-Tale Signs

- **Huge bum**
- **Can't walk far**
- **Difficulty doing up trousers**
- **Can't see feet**
- **Addicted to cakes, sweets, crisps, burgers etc**
- **Sweaty face**
- **Broken bed**
- **Car won't go when you sit in it**
- **Er...**
- **That's it**

The Times

GOVERNMENT PARDON FOR WARTIME 'COWARD'

BY OUR MILITARY STAFF DAWN FIRING-SQUAD

THE Government today finally agreed to award a long-awaited pardon to a man accused of "deserting his duty" in the Great War of 2003.

Tony Blair was at the time a young Prime Minister commanding the British Army when he refused to stand and fight George Bush over the invasion of Iraq.

"Yes, he was a coward," said Government officials. "But there were extenuating circumstances Tony was still shell-shocked from meeting someone as important as the President of the United States. As a result, he tragically obeyed orders and sent everybody else over the top to their death.

"However, now is the time for compassion," said the official. "We accept that Tony Blair was as much a victim of the war as those who died on the battlefield."

His supporters are now calling for a statue of the man once branded a "lily-livered traitor" to be erected in Whitehall with the inscription "He Lied For His Country" *(surely 'His Shame Liveth For Ever'? Ed.).*

LEBANON ROUND-UP

UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE BREAKTHROUGH

THE UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has confirmed today that after weeks of negotiations, one country had finally agreed to lead the UN peacekeeping force in Southern Lebanon and supply thousands of troops for the operation.

"We are very grateful to Israel", said Annan, "and of course the fact that no other country on the face of the earth was prepared to offer any troops for the force made Israel the obvious candidate to lead it." *(cont. p. 94)*

DISARMAMENT PLAN CONFIRMED

THE UN confirmed that as part of the ceasefire agreement in Southern Lebanon Hezbollah has agreed to disarm and to hand over its weapons to Hezbollah.

"Once the handover of weapons from Hezbollah to Hezbollah is complete then peace in the region can be assured", said Kofi *(cont. p. 94)*

BUSH 'URGES SUPPORT'

GEORGE BUSH has today urged other nations to stop dragging their heels and commit soldiers to the UN peacekeeping force monitoring the ceasefire in Lebanon.

"We Americans cannot understand why any Western nation would be reluctant to deploy thousands of their soldiers to a war ravaged Middle Eastern country seething with ethnic tensions whipped up by insurgents" said the president *(cont. p. 94)*

LET'S MAKE MONEY

MICHAEL O'LEARY SAYS:

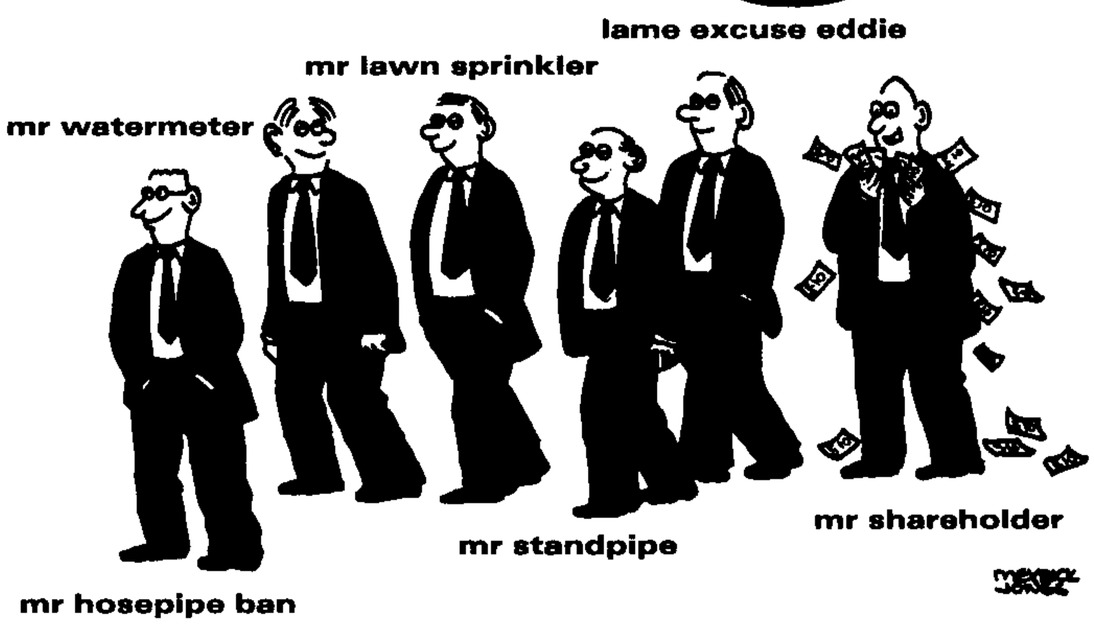
Keep giving Ryanair money to send a message to the terrorists that no one is going to stop Ryanair cashing in. I promise that a million pounds will be flying one-way into my account.*

BOOK TODAY ON RYANAIR

the patriotic British Airline of Ireland (which was neutral during the Second World War but never mind let's wheel out Churchill again...)

*Flights do not include flights.

reservoir dogs



Letters *to the Editor*

Redefining Planetary Status

SIR – At last the International Astronomical Union have seen sense and decided to remove Pluto from our already crowded solar system.

Pluto was always the thin end of the wedge and had it been allowed to stay it would have opened the floodgates to all those other so-called Plutons.

Believe me, I have nothing against them but Ceres, Charon and the exotically named 2003UB313 have no place in our galaxy and will surely be happier remaining in their own solar system.

Mark my words, had Pluto been allowed to keep its official status it would not have been long before every "traveller" in the cosmos, every Tom, Dick and Harry X473, was seeking refuge here and we would have been swamped by dubious celestial objects including planetoids, asteroids and haemorrhoids.

Sir Herbert Gusset
The Old Observatory,
Jodrell Bank,
Barking

Wedding of the Century

How They Are Related

Prester John
|
Preston North End
|
Prestwick Airport
|
Prescott
|
Peter Preston
|
Press Complaints Commission
|
Presto
|
Pesto

Charlemagne
|
Chantilly Lace
|
Nigella
|
Scintilla
|
Chantella
|
Chanteuse
|
Chardonnay
|
Chanel No. 5

NEW PRESCOTT SHOCK

MR JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, stunned the world of politics last night by saying something sensible.

In a private meeting, Mr Prescott told shocked Labour MPs that President Bush's Middle East policy was "crap".

"We couldn't believe it," said one amazed backbencher. "Prescott said something that made sense, was factually correct and with which no one disagrees."

Mr Prescott's office was, however, quick to deny the allegations.

"It is extremely unlikely that Mr Prescott would have said anything so reasonable – and, besides, at the time of the alleged meeting he was busy groping his secretary on the croquet lawn."

RAF 'WON BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR'

Historians shock claim

by **Max Battle of Hastings**

A SENSATIONAL new theory published in the respected academic journal *History Tomorrow* argues that the Battle of Trafalgar was not, as widely believed, won by Admiral Nelson and his fleet but by a handful of RAF pilots flying Spitfires under Wing Commander Newman.

"The whole Trafalgar thing is a myth," said Dr Nutter. "All that nonsense about eye-patches, 'Kiss-me-Hardy' and England Expects."

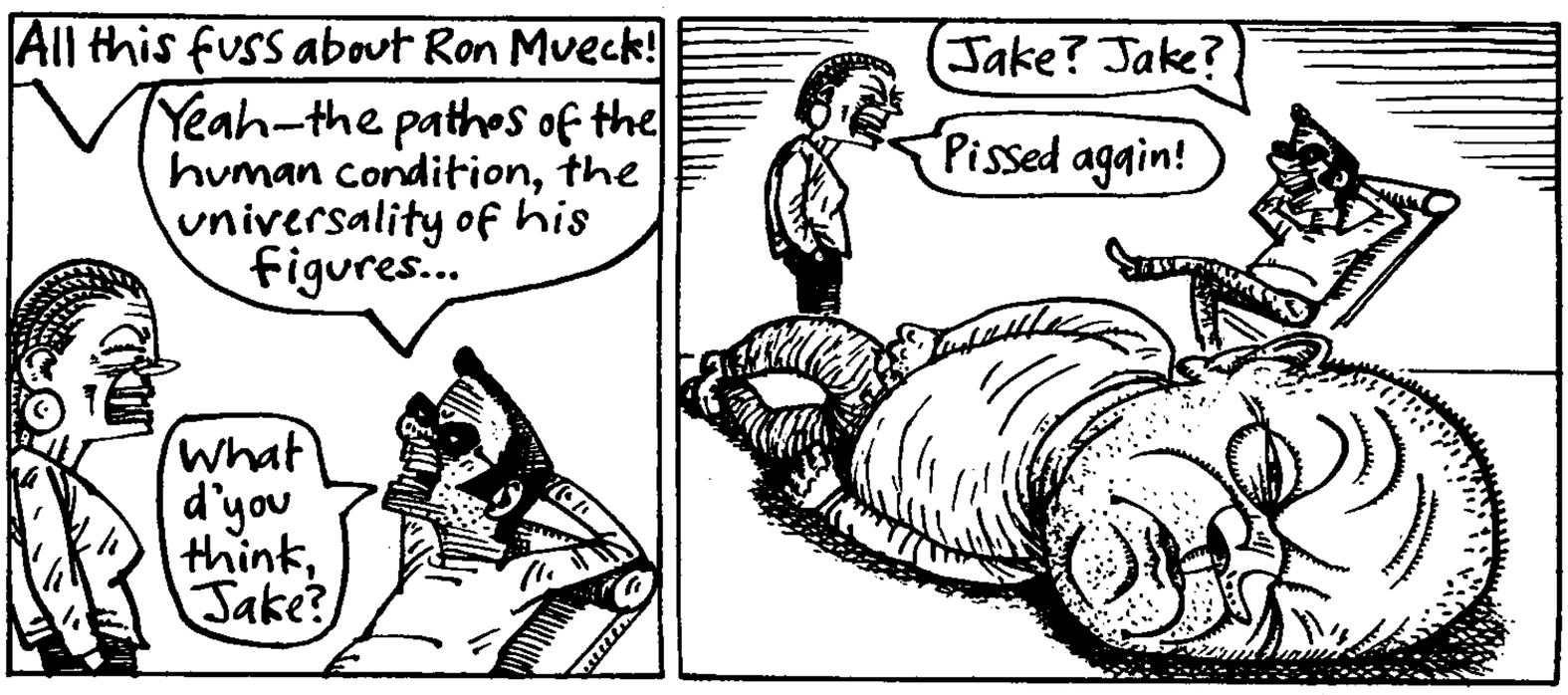
Few what a Navy!

"It was all spin," agrees his colleague Dr Brainstorm. "Napoleon was defeated by superior air power. The French fleet had no answer to the squadrons of Lancaster bombers and therefore had to concede defeat."

I see no Spits

The authors base their theories on a desire to be in the newspapers *(shurely 'authentic photographs from 1805'? Ed.)*

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS BY BIRCH


All this fuss about Ron Mueck!
Yeah—the pathos of the human condition, the universality of his figures...
What d'you think, Jake?
Jake? Jake?
Pissed again!

Tonight's Prom

Holst
"The Planets"
(minus Pluto)

The Play Everyone Is Talking About!

Inspector Frost Investigates

A dramatisation of the TV interview that changed history by bringing down the President of the United States only three years after he had already resigned.

Don't miss the incredible scene where the incisive and fearless interviewer Frost forces Richard Nixon to admit that he was very sorry that he got caught out.

Frost: Hullo, good evening and welcome! Super to have you on the show, Richard!

Nixon: We're going to make history tonight, David.

Frost: Heh, heh, heh, I thought we were going to make a lot of money!

Nixon: What am I meant to say now, in order for us to sell this show all round the world?

Frost: It's all there on the autocue, Dick, as our agents agreed.

Nixon: *(reading from autocue)*: I have let my friends down, I have let my country down.

Frost: So long as you don't let your trousers down, who cares?

(Enter Millicent Martin to sing)

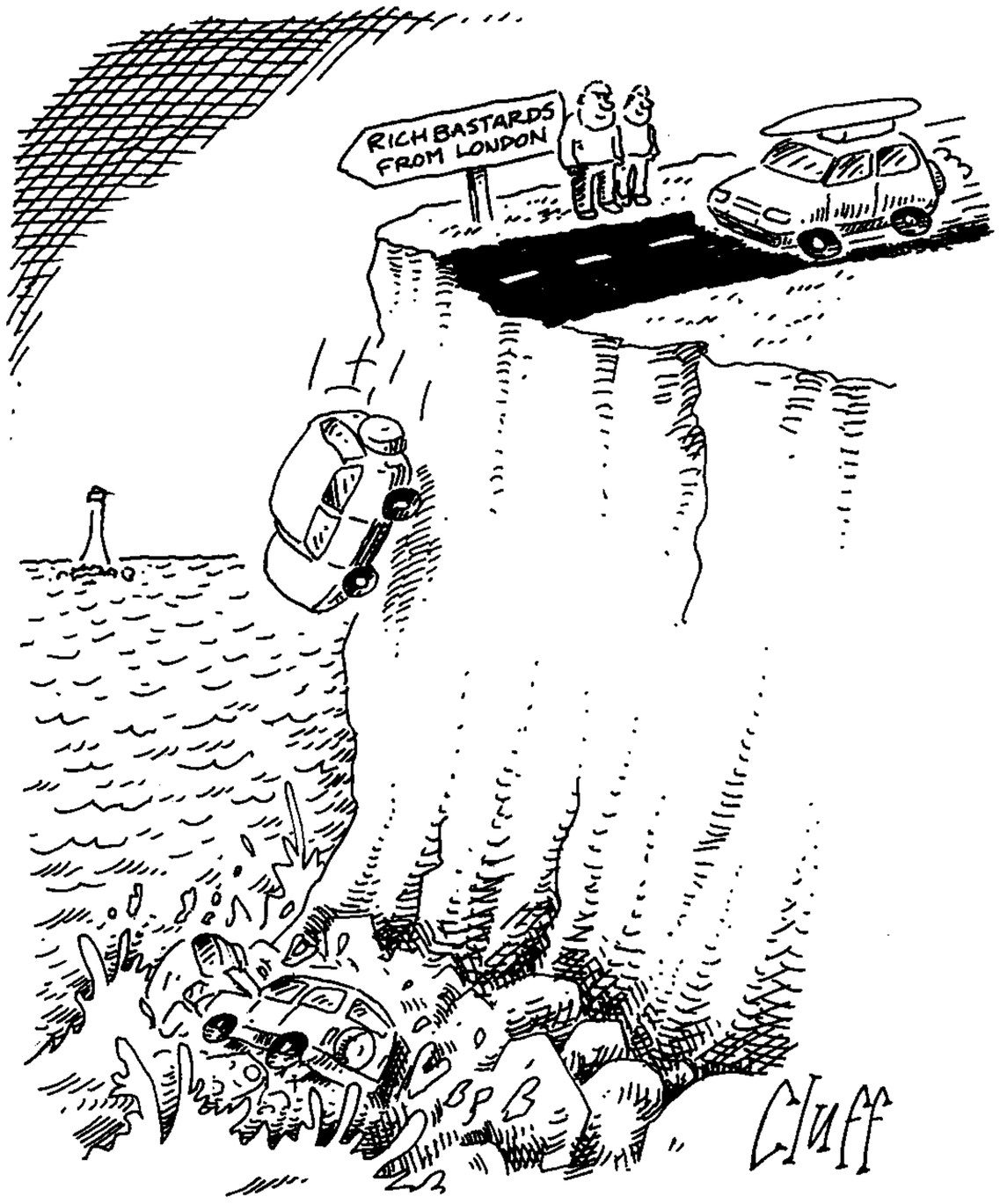
"That was the President that was,
He's over let him go on TV."

© *Ned Twinky 1962*

Cast In Full

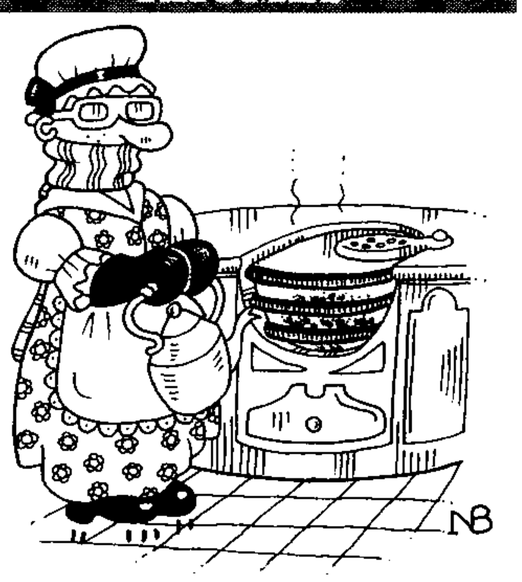
DAVID FROST.....David Jason
RICHARD NIXON.....David Suchet
MILLICENT MARTIN.....Ned Twinky
JOHN BIRT.....John Bird

"Unmissable" – Everybody



Cornish Wreckers 2006

MODERN NURSERY RHYMES



Polly, put the kettle on,
Polly, put the kettle on,
But not until the HSE
Has done a risk
assessment,
Then we'll all have tea.

POETRY CORNER

**In Memoriam –
The Marriage of Andre Previn and Sophie-Ann Mutter**

So. Farewell then
The marriage of the
Famous conductor
To the celebrated
Violinist.

They said, "You made
Beautiful music
Together."

But now we hear
Only silence.

E.J. Thribb (17½)

LEGENDS LIKE MICK JAGGER, KEITH RICHARDS AND ME, MAY BE GETTING ON IN YEARS...
BUT DESPITE OUR SUCCESS AND WEALTH, WE'RE STILL ROCK AND ROLL REBELS AT HEART...
WELL, YOU HATE CONFORMING DON'T YOU GARY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN STICKING TWO FINGERS UP AT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY...
I ONLY PAID 1.5% TAX LAST YEAR, YOU KNOW.
YOU OLD RASCAL. THAT'S EVEN LESS THAN THE STONES...

Literary Review

Potato Mash

Wayne Rooney
My Story So Far
(HarperCollins £17.99)

YOU are, let us say, a London publisher with several hundred thousand pounds burning a hole in your acquisitions budget. On what darling items will you lay the money out? A dozen first novels by promising unknowns who might, at some remote point in time, make a distinguished contribution to our literature? No, alas. Some heavyweight biography? No, *with emphasis*. Publishing being what it is these days – a matter of fast bucks, instant disposability and tables piled high with celebrity tat – you'll undoubtedly follow the Gadarene herd rushing over that vertiginous cliff marked "Footballers' Lives".

Haste is advised. Most of this year's spavined World Cup XI are already in the shops. Not just Wayne's *My Story So Far*, but Frank Lampard's *Totally Frank* – the devising of whose title doubtless occupied some highly paid publishing exec for all of five minutes – Ashley Cole's *My Defence*, Stephen Gerrard's *Gerrard: My Autobiography* and Rio Ferdinand's *Rio: My Story*. Not to be outdone, the game's veteran elite are pulling up chairs at the feast, and Sir Bobby Charlton has just signed a three-book deal for his memoirs that will reputedly see him trouser a cool £1 million a book.

Several beguiling questions immediately attach themselves to this feeding frenzy. The first is: having commissioned a footballer's autobiography, how on earth are you – or, rather, the wide-eyed hack who actually writes it – going to drag the thing out to the requisite 70,000 words? After all, the problem about Fulchester Rovers' midfield sensation Lee Fredge, notional author of *Lee Fredge: My Story*, is that he does nothing except play football. Sure, there will be a Mrs Fredge, or protemporaneous versions thereof, perhaps a "gaffer" or two with whom "words" will have been had, a grudge even with Tadcaster United's Dirk Smoker to sedulously unpick, but encouraging this meagre seed corn to sprout beyond its 200th page is the equivalent of converting a slim novella

into a multi-volume *roman fleuve*.

Yet more beguiling, perhaps, is the question of how the very considerable sums of money lavished on these projects – most of them commissioned in the confident hope of a decent World Cup performance – are to be clawed back. Some optimistic spirit, for example, recently inflated England captain John Terry's bank account to the tune of £1.2 million for a two-book deal whose first instalment sold a miserable 30,000 copies, representing a pro rata loss of, let us say, £400,000. Headline is supposed to have invested well over £300,000 on Ashley Cole's account of his life to date – desperately hard to recoup given that Ash here has no public profile worth speaking of, and that the few thousand Arsenal fans who might be interested are deeply hacked off by his proposed move to Chelsea.

All these difficulties are catastrophically magnified in the case of young Wayne and his five-volume, career-tracking tie-up with the kind people at HarperCollins. Ominously enough, the deal is bereft of what the trade calls "escalators" – a polite word for guarantees of performance and team selection – so Wayne gets the £5 million whatever happens. Break-even, consequently, starts at 500,000 hardback units *per book*.

It is, of course, perfectly possible to sell footballers' lives in vast quantities – provided, that is, there is some kind of internal dynamic at work. Roy Keane's autobiography and *Gazza: My Story* sold by the truckload, but then Keane had a decade-and-a-half's intransigence to look back on, and Gascoigne a psyche scrambled to the point of crack-up. Young Wayne, alas, has neither of these advantages. Hunter Davies, his harassed amanuensis, could recently be heard on Radio Four lamenting the fact that his client "hasn't got a personality".

This seemed a bit hard, even when said of a professional footballer. What Hunter meant, natch, was that Wayne, hitherto kept rather out of sight by club and country, had no particular idiosyncrasy to which the paying public could respond. Sad to relate, *My Story So Far* doesn't supply one, consisting instead of endless facsimiles of old school reports and lengthy descriptions of the Old Trafford training routines. At a rough estimate, HarperCollins has blown three-quarters of a million quid on this, with four more embarrassments to come. Down at the bottom of the cliff-face, in a parched and desolate landscape littered with bones and cloven hoofs, another monstrous porker, dazed and bloodied by its calamitous descent, is crawling away to die.

What You Won't Get Round To Reading. No 94

Betjeman
by A.N. Wilson

ONE advantage of Betjeman's love affair with Lady Lucinda was that it brought him into close touch with her maiden aunt the Duchess of Bakewell (thereafter known as "Scissors"). They were originally introduced by a mutual friend, Rev Gavin Monkhouse, then the vicar of St Anselm's, Wokingham, who had previously relied on Betjeman's help when restoring his church's reredos, designed by the famous Victorian architect Sir Hugo Chamferston ("Chamfers").

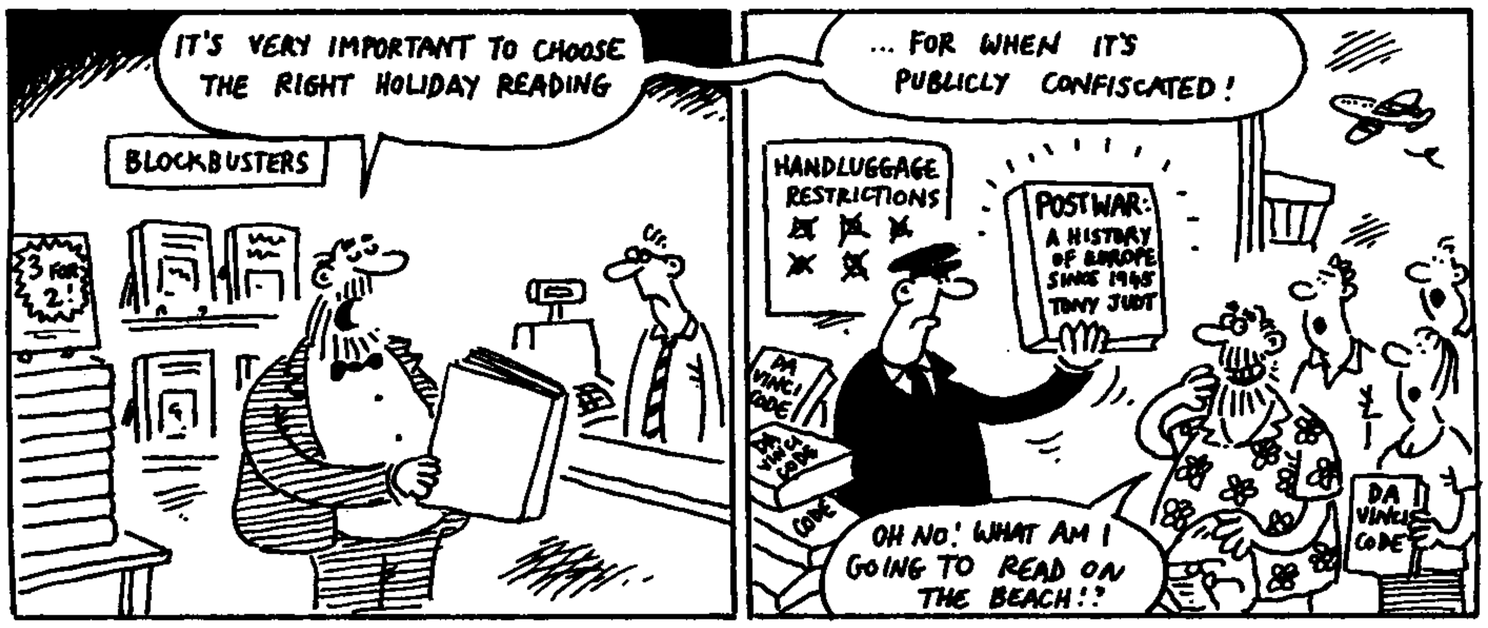
"Scissors", who at that time was living in the Dower House at Droppings, became a devoted fan of Betjeman, helping to keep his spirits up while he was going through a period of doubt and depression over his infatuation with her beautiful niece. They read Dornford Yates to one another in the evenings ("Gosh, isn't the old boy spot on" he wrote to her later) while her faithful butler Glover stood beside the chair holding the wool for her knitting.

"Dear old Scissors, dontcha love her? How I wish she'd been my mother," he wrote in a long and, alas, never-published poem, the manuscript of which is now in the British Library.

A frequent visitor to the Dower House was Hon Rosie Wheatcroft. A devout Anglican and niece of the one-time *Punch* cartoonist Hector Sibthorp (Hecko) she is thought to have inspired the character Jessica Prozac in Anthony Powell's pre-war novel *Whatever Happened to Mrs Fothergill?* A keen otter-hunter she often accompanied Betjeman to the little church of St Crispin's, Panesar, where the incumbent was Rev Benchley Warboys, a one-time Cambridge don who (cont. p94)

Number Crunching

20 %	Total GCSE entries awarded A or A*
45.7%	GCSE maths entries awarded D or below
38.4%	GCSE English entries awarded D or below


IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT HOLIDAY READING
BLOCKBUSTERS
3 FOR 2!
... FOR WHEN IT'S PUBLICLY CONFISCATED!
HANDLUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS
POSTWAR: A HISTORY OF EUROPE SINCE 1945 TONY JUDT
DA VINCI CODE
OH NO! WHAT AM I GOING TO READ ON THE BEACH!?

First Drafts

John Osborne

Books & Bookmen

■ ALL the main publishing groups are represented on the Booker Prize longlist, with the conspicuous exception of HarperCollins. No surprise there: since Vicky Barnsley took over as chief executive with a mission to add classiness to commercial clout, bringing her indy publisher Fourth Estate with her, only one HarperCollins title has appeared on the prize's shortlist in seven years.

As the longlist shows, three Hamish Hamilton authors, two from Cape literary imprints, can flourish within other giant groups. In the Murdoch empire, they shrivel up. Barnsley axed Flamingo, which gave the firm its only Booker winner (Arundhati Roy), while Fourth Estate has lost its nose for fiction talent – it chucked a £300,000 advance at Gautam Malkani's *Londonstani*, only to see it not even rated as among the year's best 19 novels. Still, Wayne Rooney and Jade Goody's memoirs have sold well.

■ THE publishing world was up in arms at the prospect of Waterstone's taking over Ottakars, but what no one expected was an Ottakars takeover of Waterstone's. The recent influx of staff from Ottakar's former head office in Salisbury has revolutionised the dreary Waterstone's HQ at Brentford, with a number of them taking top positions ahead of the Waterstone's staff. This has angered many incumbents, with Children's Manager George Grey storming out in protest and other key staff about to walk. The Ottakar's people had better get up to speed quickly as they may not have many Waterstone's people left to help them out. And what price the disgruntled leavers ending up with old colleagues Caroline Mileham and David Roche at Borders?

■ WATERSTONE'S is finding its loss-making campus stores more difficult to shake off than it had first thought. Back in March the firm announced that 17 of its 28 academic shops were to become "satellites" of the existing high street branches. In effect this meant experienced academic managers being sacked, leaving the shops to be run by the managers of the high street stores – more used to selling Dan Brown than psychology textbooks.

Six of the sacked managers have argued that they should have been given the opportunity to apply for the dual management role and that they have therefore been unfairly dismissed. Their cases have gone as far as tribunals, the first of which is coming up in October. What the "Waterstone's Six" don't know is that in 2005 the company secretly tried to sell the bulk of its campus business to the specialist academic chain John Smith & Son – a move which, if successful, would almost certainly have kept them all in jobs. If the tribunals find against Waterstone's it could face a hefty compensation bill.

■ A RECENT edition of *The Big Issue* carried a feature on "DIY publishing" by writer Nikki Bradford, whose novel *Bastards Leave Suckers Who Love Too Much* was issued through the "self-publishing service" Pen Press after being rejected by 13 publishers and 14 agents. "It's working," she claims, but she rather undoes this by admitting that, despite interest from movie producers, she's still paying off the bank loan she took out to pay for the exercise. The Society of Authors' advice is that authors should never be expected to make direct financial contributions to the production of a book. The risk should all be on the publisher's part.

Bradford's book – published under the name Nikki VanBergen – is "available in all good bookshops", but a trawl through Bookworm's local came up blank. The long and the short of it is that she could have achieved the same result much cheaper by dealing directly with a printer, as companies such as Pen Press exist to make a profit. This is fair enough, but their claims to be able to promote a book and get it into the shops are usually theoretical. Even the majors can't get everything into the shops. Any that do get sold in tend to result from direct enthusiastic action by the authors. Bradford points out that some self-published titles are eventually picked up by the majors, but these rare cases tend to underline rather than undermine the primacy of the big publishers.

Later he remarked that he started each day by holding his pen up to the sun.

GARY LACHMAN interviews poet JEREMY REED
Independent on Sunday

I've done frittatas before, and I'll do them again – they're a great way to use up bits of this and that: chard from the garden; the last of the duck eggs... a lump of pecorino from Sardinia that had been sitting around for some time.

MATTHEW FORT
Guardian Weekend

Kira O'Reilly: *Inthewrongplaceness*
(A slow crushing dance with a pig for one person at a time)

This work emerges from research with skin biopsies from newly dead pigs, cultivating the skin cells in vitro, in preparation to work from a biopsy of my own skin.

The work left me with an undercurrent of pigginess, unexpected fantasies of mergence and interspecies metamorphoses began to flicker into my consciousness; making fiercely tender and ferocious identifications with the pig as stand in, double, twin, doll, imaginary self.

Live Art programme, Newlyn Art Gallery

Pseuds Corner

These recent works play knowingly with the uncertainty of concrete's material transformation from liquid to solid state. By constructing the 'moulds', Jacobs holds a certain control over the outcome, but much remains open during the process of their manufacture. Cast in formers fabricated from wood, plastic sheet and tape, the resultant objects are not upended as is usual with plaster or bronze castings, but left in the direction of the material's flow – embracing seepage from the mould's form – revealing the influence of both gravity and coincidence... Jacobs' practice adheres to the traditional sculptural concerns of volume and negative space; exploiting the internal energy of his chosen material in seeking to consolidate in abstract terms the formal and expressive dynamics of 'objects in space.'

'Between Us', an exhibition of the work of Dutch artist JEROEN JACOBS, Outpost Gallery Norwich

How does one "take care" when so prompted by a departing acquaintance? It would be wrong to trivialise these warm words... The German thinker Heidegger links 'anxiety' and 'care' closely. Care is a quality of being-in-the-world. To care is to be future-oriented. Heidegger's biographer, Safranski, writes, 'Care is nothing other than lived temporality.' 'Care' is really about existing in time, in a self-relation, with an attitude to one's own being. The words 'take care' are an existential entreaty to 'be' in the world; a call to live authentically. To 'care' means much more than just 'look after yourself.'

Guardian **Notes and Queries**

Simon Barnes falls in love with ... Andy Murray
This week, Murray has beaten Roger Federer ... With this extraordinary and utterly unexpected result, there is no question: before us, flickering bravely, we can see the flame of confirmation. It happens in love — hours, days, weeks, even longer — after the initial magical crackle of static electricity, the spark struck between two people. It might happen when dawn makes the sky pale, her sleeping head on your arm and the realisation that there is no going back, nor any wanting to.

It might happen when you suddenly notice that the conversation has gone on without pause for three hours and shows no sign of stopping. It might happen when the phone rings and you hear her voice and it is all that matters in the world and you know that she is thinking exactly the same thing. It is the flame of confirmation.

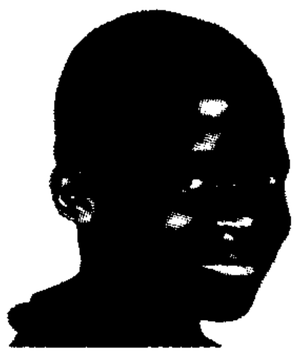
Simon Barnes
The Times

CONTRIBUTORS: Nigel Pearson, Katie Cooke, Peter Gildener, Jude Roland, Richard Abram, David Ferguson.

£10 paid for all entries

IN THE BACK

DAMILOLA ERRORS



Cock-up to cover-up

FOLLOWING the conviction of Ricky Preddie, 19, and his brother Danny, 18, for the manslaughter of ten-year-old Damilola Taylor in Peckham, south London, nearly six years ago, the Home Office announced a review of the error that caused justice to be delayed. Forensic scientist Sian Hedges, then of the Forensic Science Service, missed crucial bloodstaining that originated from Damilola on clothing and footwear of the Preddie brothers.

Four innocent boys stood trial for the same crime in 2002. That trial collapsed due to the unreliability of the key witness referred to as Bromley. John Sentamu, now Archbishop of York, headed an inquiry into police handling of vulnerable child witnesses such as Bromley that resulted in recommendations.

The Home Office review will focus on how the vital evidence that secured the convictions was missed – but it appears that there will be no investigation into how the Damilola Taylor Inquiry was mishandled in the first place. Ms Hedges' error does not explain how the innocent original defendants were allowed to stand trial four years ago. Neither the Metropolitan Police nor its police authority have announced any plans for an inquiry into what went wrong – errors that almost derailed justice permanently. Indeed, had wrongful convictions been obtained then, the Preddie brothers would never have been brought to justice.

In July 2003 the real murderer of Lynette White – Jeffrey Gafoor – was convicted of her brutal murder in 1988. Three innocent men had previously been convicted of the murder, and two other innocent men acquitted, after the longest murder trial in British history. The former Chief Constable of South Wales Police apologised to all five in writing and ordered an investigation into what went wrong in the original inquiry. To date, 13 witnesses and 19 police officers have been arrested and interviewed on suspicion of offences including perjury and perverting the course of justice.

There are no current plans for such an inquiry into what went wrong in the Damilola Taylor inquiry. The means to compensate the original defendants was abolished by former Home Secretary Charles Clarke. Far from making savings, the abolition of the discretionary scheme will force them into suing for compensation, which will mean lengthy delays and mounting legal costs eclipsing any savings. Perhaps the Home Secretary should reinstate the discretionary scheme for compensation and use the savings to fund an inquiry into the whole of this tragic case.

DEFENCE

Flog of war

STUNG by claims that Britain's international policy is feeding terrorism, Foreign Office Minister Lord Triesman rushed out a statement defending his department. Triesman restated Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy, saying: "the priorities are underpinned by the core values of freedom, justice and opportunity – the same values that drive government policy at home. We want all governments to be accountable to their people, and we want a strong international system based on the rule of law."

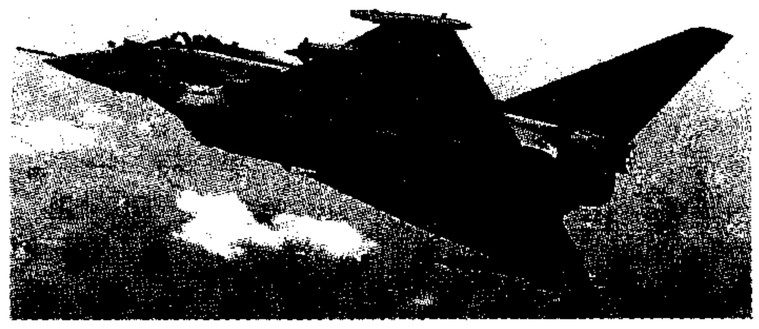
Unfortunately the Ministry of Defence immediately stained Triesman's clean sheet with the revelation that it had brokered a £10 billion deal to sell 72 BAE Eurofighters to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government is already completely unaccountable to its people or anyone else, and the arrival of a new batch of warplanes isn't going to make it more receptive to democracy. The aeroplane deal is part of the massive al-Yamamah contract. This deal seems to have escaped inspection under the "rule of law". Both the police and parliamentarians would like to see a National Audit Office report into al-Yamamah, suspecting commissions may be bribes. However, the ten copies of the report are under lock and key in Treisman's ethical Foreign Office or the MoD.

The Saudi arms sale was brokered by the Defence Export Sales Organisation (DESO), a unit within the MoD dedicated not to arming British troops, but to flogging British weapons abroad. The Campaign Against the Arms Trade recently launched a "Dump DESO" campaign. The group's research shows that DESO is a very powerful representative of the arms trade in the centre of government: the Head of Defence Export Services is normally an arms trade executive seconded to the government. The arms industry tops up their civil service salary. The last but one DESO head, Charles Masefield, boasted of "direct access to [John] Major and Blair". The current DESO boss, Alan Garwood, is on secondment from MBDA, a missile firm partly owned by BAE.

DESO's interest in dubious regimes goes well beyond Saudi Arabia. DESO is very excited that Libya has decided to come in from the cold, and hopes to build arms sales to Gadafi. Arms industry trade body the Defence Manufacturers' Association reported: "DESO engagement to date had managed to secure a good network of contacts at influential level within the Libyan MoD." DESO is also looking to Iraq as another "emerging market".

While most observers see dangers of chaos, corruption and collapse in Iraq, DESO sees money for arms. The Defence Manufacturers reported: "DESO engagement with the customer [ie Baghdad] was good, and improving, with Ministerial and official visits planned in the near future."

The Eye has obtained copies of DESO's "Strategic Marketing Plan" under the Freedom of Information Act. All references to al-Yamamah were blacked out, but the papers were still revealing. They showed that DESO has become enthusiastic about Kazakhstan. The "Market Backcloth" to this country includes "Rising Islamic militancy in the region". Luckily for arms sales "Kazakhstan is looking to the



West to develop economic and political partnerships, a policy which irritates the Russians". Another arms sales plus is that Kazakhstan will be "the third largest uranium producer in the world", attracting the "keen interest" of the US. No mention is made of Kazakhstan's authoritarian rule or the imprisonment of opposition leaders. Indeed, DESO makes no mention of human rights in its country profiles, and only briefly refers to the need for arms marketing to fit "Government arms export criteria".

The marketing plan also shows how every aspect of defence and international policy is bent towards arms sales. DESO says that "ministerial and [military] Chiefs visits" to countries identified as "priority markets" are to do with sales, not security or diplomacy. The visits will "support the achievement of defence export business". DESO also says that: "beginning Saudi army officer training in the UK" is key to selling British weapons.

While DESO's job is selling weapons abroad, it is actually part of the Ministry of Defence. The reports make clear that the British Army should act as weapons salesmen and "Provide military support to marketing". It should "exploit overseas respect for UK forces to maximise export opportunities" and use "effective military to military links" with other countries to help sell weapons.

Fighter spin

A MINISTRY of Defence scheme under which 500 staff have been laid off – instigated with John "not fit for purpose" Reid at the helm – has been declared unlawful. The scheme has thrown jet fighter support into chaos, a document seen by the *Eye* shows. As usual, there are management consultants' fingerprints all over the fiasco.

Under the MoD's plans – the first stages of which have been implemented over the past year – the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) at St Athan in South Wales would no longer maintain fighters; instead, the work would be done by RAF crew at their main bases following training from companies including BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce.

Staff objected that essential experience in the highly specialised work would be lost and the task would simply end up being performed more expensively by a private monopoly.

On the work that has already been transferred – repairing and upgrading Tornado and Harrier jets – this is indeed what has happened. And that means that, under employment law known as TUPE regulations, the jobs effectively handed to the companies should first have been offered to the workers already performing it at St Athan.

In a letter to staff, DARA boss Archie Hughes conceded: "The clear indications from MoD's legal advisors are that TUPE should have applied to all work transferred on the Tornado and Harrier platforms." As a result he would "suspend decisions on all future redundancies".

Not only does the MoD face the prospect of paying compensation to staff already laid off, it will have to re-think its plans from scratch. One union official commented: "This is a complete shambles. Staff are furious about it and we are seeking urgent legal advice as we believe a number have been unfairly dismissed. We are being inundated with applications for compensation."

The proposals emerged from the "end to end" (E2E) review of the RAF under armed forces minister Adam Ingram. The "brains" behind it, employed on contracts worth more than £15 million, were the MoD's favourite management consultants, McKinsey. The firm has received £70 million from the department in the past six years.

The latest setback heaps further embarrassment on the MoD just months after MPs on parliament's Defence Select Committee described the reorganisation as "incomprehensible". A newly-built £104 million "superhangar" facility at St Athan turned into a white elephant in a move the MPs called "quite extraordinary".

The MoD remains unrepentant, a spokesman commenting that "notwithstanding the issue of TUPE" Ingram "remains confident that his earlier decisions relating to the transfer of Harrier and Tornado work from DARA to RAF main operating bases were correct and based on judgments considered to offer best value for defence."

HEALTH SPECIAL

HEALTH Minister Andy Burnham's announcement of £1.5 billion-worth of PFI hospital developments showed the government's recent review of the scheme has only trimmed a few pounds off Labour's favourite heavyweight privatisation programme.

The six hospital PFIs were in limbo while the government looked at the PFI in light of their other contracting out schemes. Critics wondered if lumbering hospitals with 20 to 30-year contracts with private contractors while simultaneously shifting operations and money to independent sector treatment centres made any sense.

Losing regular cash for these operations means that some trusts worried they could not afford the long-term regular rents to their PFI contractors. However, Burnham's announcement shows he is still prepared to guarantee decades'-worth of NHS money to the government's favourite firms.

The biggest winners are Laing (which calls itself Equion for PFI deals) and Serco. It won the £711 million Leicester Hospitals PFI. Laing also won the £272 million North Staffordshire PFI.

Laing and Serco are also the partners behind one of the first and worst PFI schemes: the two firms built and run the Norfolk & Norwich PFI hospital. They made massive windfall profits in Norfolk for a hospital with fewer beds than its NHS predecessor. Meanwhile, the health trust is saddled with costs they cannot afford and are looking at major job cuts. Balfour Beatty won the rest of the new PFI hospital cash, with a £68 million scheme at Tameside and £112 million of PFI at the Salford Royal.

Andy Burnham said: "Each scheme has been rigorously checked to make sure that it offers value for money and delivers services that are needed by local patients". However, some of the Hospital Chief Execs actually running the scheme seem less enthusiastic. Sue James is Chief Executive of the Walsall Hospital Trust, which gets a £140 million PFI grant to redevelop its Manor Hospital. Trust papers show James recently said that the Health Ministry's plans to shift healthcare away from big hospitals "makes it very difficult to afford payments for PFI investments". The trust is already struggling with a deficit. James said that the PFI "is likely to cost Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust around £13 million more than our current costs for every year for the 30 years of the contract. The original plan was to fund this by a series of cost savings over a period of time. However these cost savings have now got to be used to fund this year's deficit."

However, James added: "PFI is the only mechanism available for NHS Trusts to obtain the amount of capital that is required to rebuild hospitals like the Manor."

So the Chief Executive of one of the trusts involved said the PFI was too expensive, but was also the only game in town. Walsall lobbied hard for extra cash during the recent review of the scheme, and received an extra £13 million. The trust also cut costs by taking some of the support services out of the PFI contract – a clear indication that privately financed schemes are more expensive than the traditional NHS. The Walsall trust is now putting on a brave face and welcoming the PFI approval. The scheme has faced other problems: earlier this year one of the bidders pulled out, leaving Carillion as the single bidder, which made value for money even less likely.

PCT APPOINTMENTS

IN A DISPLAY of no confidence in Patricia Hewitt's Health Service reforms, a swathe of NHS executives seems to have spontaneously boycotted appointments for Primary Care Trust boards. Labour founded the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to both bring the NHS closer to the people, and to act as commissioning bodies bringing new private providers into the NHS.

Unfortunately some of the PCTs were not helpful enough in the new privatisation, so Hewitt closed down around half of them. Hewitt caused confusion in the NHS by replacing PCTs with fewer – and consequently more controllable – boards in charge of larger areas.

However, even though this means that there are around two chairmen from the old boards able to apply for each of the new posts, many of them seem to have just walked away from the NHS. The Health Service Appointments Commission newsletter said: "Unfortunately, the recruitment campaigns for PCT chairs outside London did not receive as many applications as the Appointments Commission had hoped. This means that for some posts there is hardly any competition, while for a few posts there are no applicants at all."

The NHS Appointments Commission has had more luck appointing chief executives of the new PCTs. It appointed Fred Hucker, currently chairman of the South West Oxfordshire PCT, as head of the new larger Oxfordshire PCT. As the Eye previously reported, Hucker has twice been in charge when the Trust's decisions were overturned by judicial review. This includes Hucker's decision to sack non-executive Paul Wesson, the last of the board who resisted the use of a private firm to do NHS eye operations. Wesson and the four other former board members who opposed the private eye ops deal have all applied for jobs on the new PCT board. They believe their decision to stand against the eye operations contract has been justified by the subsequent problems with the contract.

The judicial review that said Hucker was wrong to sack his non-executive also says he cannot be involved in any future appointments procedure involving Wesson. Consequently, one of the first new chief executives of a new PCT will have to be kept away from the selection of his own board.

NHS TRUSTS don't come much more strapped than Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust, facing a £46 million deficit this year.

After countless senior resignations over the past couple of years the trust has turned to the ever-reliable consultants to improve matters. It kicked off by appointing an acting chief executive through health consultants Synovia. The lucky man was Synovia director Nigel Beverley, who appeared "for a maximum of 3 days per week" for £1,200 a day until earlier this month – nice work if you can get it. Meanwhile the trust brought in the ubiquitous KPMG to design a "turnaround programme", for the usual handsome fees.

Beverley also sits on the board of a complimentary therapy company that deals with NHS referrals called Get Well UK and is business development director (ie drums up work for) ATOS Origin, recent winner of one of the independent diagnostic centre contracts to whom PCTs will give so much business. Good to see that health secretary Patricia Hewitt isn't just flogging off the National Health Service but getting those who will gain most financially from her policies actually running it too.

Meanwhile, one person who isn't hanging around to see the turnaround through is the trust's former finance director. Jane Payling recently moved onwards and upwards to take over the purse strings at Papworth hospital.

ACCOUNTANCY

Profit and trough

IT'S BEEN another good year for the big four beancounting firms, as their recent announcements of hugely increased multi-billion-pound profits show – in no small part down to the generosity of the taxpayer.

Hundreds of millions have been shelled out on the firms for consultancy services. Top wheeze this year has been dreaming up "turnaround" plans for NHS trusts with deficits often caused in part by monstrous PFI schemes the accountants advised them to sign.

So how have they repaid the ever-bountiful taxpayer? By yet again ripping him off with a barrage of tax avoidance, that's how. Figures obtained by the *Eye* under freedom of information laws show that in the year up to June the big four firms dreamt up and sold 101 tax avoidance schemes, disclosed to HM Revenue & Customs under laws introduced two years ago. Most scams would have been sold to many eager clients – as would several old tricks that don't have to be declared. Although the Revenue won't say how many each firm sold, it is known that all the big four – KPMG, Ernst & Young, PwC and Deloitte – have been up to it. The costs could run into billions.

One especially fruitful area has been Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT), a new tax on which the beancounters have predictably swooped. SDLT was designed to cut out stamp duty avoidance when companies flog property. Ever keen to help government objectives, in less than 12 months the big four have launched 54 attempts to circumvent the new rules. Great work – give them some more public cash!

THE GOVERNMENT'S indulgence of the big accountancy firms has reached reality-defying levels in its reaction to the conduct of BCCI liquidator Deloitte as it pursued its doomed case against the Bank of England (see *Eyes passim*).

Answering a call from Labour MP Keith Vaz last month for a conclusion to the liquidation that has netted Deloitte 15 years' fees already, DTI minister Margaret Hodge (pictured) responded: "When I looked at the judgment in the recent case of the Bank of England v BCCI, I could detect no suggestion from the judge that the liquidators had acted other than in good faith on the basis of the professional advice available to them."

Er, not quite. The judge was in fact highly critical of the liquidators, not least the way they falsely impugned the honesty of several living and dead former Bank of England officials (for which no apology had been made). And he condemned Deloitte's media campaign in which "the liquidators have assiduously courted publicity in respect of their claim against the Bank" as "a cynical and grotesque operation" in which "a wholly distorted picture of the Bank's conduct was thereby painted". He even quoted from Deloitte's press releases to make his point.

Margaret Hodge has form of her own when it comes to distortion. Three years ago, as minister for children, she was forced to apologise for falsely maligning a former child abuse victim in defence of her record as leader of Islington council during an abuse scandal. But even for her it's stretching it to describe Deloitte's behaviour as "in good faith". She could almost have been reading from a brief written by one of the many Deloitte secondees to have walked the DTI's corridors under New Labour.

The costs of the misconceived action topped £100 million, to be added to Deloitte's own fees over the profitable 12 years of the case. All will be met by the long-suffering creditors, who have now been ripped off by everyone from bent arms dealers to City beancounters.

NIGHT FLIGHTS

Chronic boom

THERE were celebrations for people living under the flight paths of Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted after government proposals to abolish the strict rules limiting noise (and therefore flying) between midnight and 6am were defeated in the Lords before it broke up for the summer recess.

Pity, however, people living under the flight path at Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA), where there are no such restrictions and the government has no plans to introduce any in the Civil Aviation Bill. The airport, run by Manchester Airports Group, mainly deals with freight, including UPS and DHL postal services, and regularly sees dozens of take-offs and landings during the small hours. To make matters worse, freight planes are generally bigger, older and noisier than holiday jets.

One resident who wrote to complain about overnight noise on 29-30 June this year received a reply explaining that there were 25 arriving aircraft and 32 departing aircraft during the night, all of which "operated in accordance with all requirements", plus a five-minute idle engine test at 1.20am – lovely!

Of course, the airport is in a less densely populated area than the major passenger airports, but campaigners say thousands of people suffer from disturbed sleep in the towns and villages in the area worst affected by night noise.

And, thanks to the lack of regulation, it's only getting worse. Last year, one firm, Air Charter Services, moved its entire operations base (including four heavy cargo planes) from Ostend, Belgium, openly stating that the move was because: "We can fly into and out of Nottingham East Midlands at any time we like, there are no night restrictions."

Now airport bosses are planning massive expansion. Consultation on a draft masterplan, proposing to double the number of flights by 2016 (with a sweetener of more jobs and new holiday flights) ended earlier this summer and full plans are due out soon.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Gaga counter

THE government welcomed the final recommendations of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) for deep geological burial of waste, published last month – but just how useful was this £5 million, three-year investigation?

Last year Lord Oxburgh, chairman of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, said they had been "astonished and dismayed" by CoRWM's "vague and implausible" terms of reference, and by the abject lack of technical expertise among the charity heads, social science academics and "stakeholder engagement" experts on the committee (there was one physicist, but no engineers or geologists).

During 2005 the committee suspended its only health expert, Keith Baverstock, whose departure was followed by the resignation of "risk management" expert Professor David Ball, who said decision making was evidently going to be led by opinion rather than science.

In a feature describing CoRWM as "collectively unintelligent" last year, *Nuclear Engineering International* magazine said that by prioritising public involvement they were running the risk of "introducing shallow if not 'junk' science" to a complex technical problem. At one point CoRWM spent serious time discussing blasting waste into space.

In the event, most scientists (including the Royal Society) back the main recommendation for deep burial – not least because it's been seen as the most plausible solution for several decades now.

So what was the point of spending three years and £5 million on a non-expert talking shop that ultimately agreed with the scientists? CoRWM's own terms of reference state that their objective was not to come up with a scientific solution, but to devise recommendations that "inspire public confidence". Translation: one big PR exercise.

CHILD ABUSE

SATANIC PANIC

WHEN the headless and limbless body of a young African boy was found in the river Thames in September 2001, proponents of a belief in satanic ritual abuse (see *Eyes passim*) claimed this gruesome discovery was the first forensic, physical evidence that finally proved it existed.

The believers have steadfastly refused to accept the Department of Health-commissioned report which concluded definitively in 1994 – after the debacles of false allegations in Rochdale, the Orkneys and elsewhere across the UK – that satanic ritual abuse in this country was a myth.

Initially key advocates tried to persuade the Metropolitan police investigating the murder of Adam – the name they gave the unidentified victim – that it was a case of ritual abuse. They hoped the case would vindicate their claims and restore their credibility.

Early in the police investigation into the case of Adam, one of the most active believers in satanic abuse, Valerie Sinason (see *Eye* 1158), a Harley Street psychotherapist and psychoanalyst, offered her expertise to the police.

Sinason, who claims to have treated 300 survivors of "ritual abuse", has long tried to persuade the police that satanic abuse was a reality. In February 2000 the Metropolitan Police seconded Acting Detective Chief Inspector Clive Driscoll to investigate her claims to have interviewed 76 children and adult victims who, she said, had made allegations of satanic sexual abuse and murder. Although no forensic evidence was found to substantiate her allegations, Driscoll was evidently a believer.

In September 2001, on the very weekend Adam's body was found, Driscoll was a key speaker at a conference at Reading University organised by Sinason and an organisation called Ritual Abuse Information Network and Support (see *Eyes passim*) run by Dr Joan Coleman, a psychiatrist who claims to have talked to more than 600 professionals who have worked with survivors of "sadistic ritual abuse" and spoken to more than 200 victims.

Driscoll shared a platform with Colonel Kobus Jonker (pictured), a born-again Christian from the South African Police, who ran a unit investigating satanism, satanic cults and "occult-related crime" manned by officers who, he said, were all devout Christians. Sinason had worked with him when she was based at the University of Cape Town.

At the RAINS conference Driscoll and Jonker gave presentations from the police perspective on "ritual abuse" investigations in South Africa and the UK. Jonker then became a high profile consultant to the Metropolitan police investigating the case of Adam.

Officers travelled to South Africa to meet him. Thereafter the police referred to the torso in the Thames case, as it became known, as a "ritual" killing and spoke of black magic rituals.

At least some officers must have been persuaded that satanic ritual abuse existed because in October 2004 the force sent 30 officers from the child abuse investigation command on a one-day course to help them identify the satanic ritual abuse of children. This was organised by a barrister called Lee Moore, the founder and former president of the Association of Child Abuse Lawyers (ACAL), who ran a consultancy service and training courses for professionals who work with "ritualistic crimes".

Then in June last year a report commissioned by the Met was leaked to a reporter from BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme which claimed that young African boys were being trafficked to the UK and murdered as human sacrifices in churches after being labelled by pastors as "witches," possessed by the devil. The sensational story was linked to a previous statement from the Metropolitan Police – leaked to the same BBC reporter, Angus Stickler – saying 300 African boys had gone "missing" from school rolls over a four-month period. The story was picked up by the London *Evening Standard* which splashed with a front page headline: "Children sacrificed in London churches".

The black communities and churches were outraged, claiming the reports were racist and false. Days later the police issued a statement saying there was no evidence whatsoever to support the claims of sacrifice. The police report was never published and the claims of child sacrifice were said to have been "anecdotal" and emerged during focus groups in the black communities of London.

The report had been commissioned following the death of Victoria Climbie, an eight-year-old girl from the Ivory Coast, who died in London in February 2000. She had been tortured to death by her great aunt, who brought her to England, and her boyfriend who believed Victoria was possessed by Satan.

Two weeks before the Met police report was leaked, two women and a man were found guilty of cruelty to an eight-year-old girl known as Child B, brought to the UK from Angola, who was cut with a knife, beaten with a belt and shoe and had chilli peppers rubbed in her eyes to "beat the devil out of her". The girl's aunt, one of those convicted, attended an African evangelical Christian church which preached a belief in witchcraft and possession.

The police report was shelved and the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a study to investigate the extent of child abuse linked to a belief that children were "witches" and possessed, as happened to Victoria Climbie and Child B.

The *Eye* has learnt that Valerie Sinason contacted the researchers and attempted to contribute her alleged cases of satanic ritual abuse but was rebuffed. The researchers swiftly concluded that the kind of abuse which they were investigating had nothing whatsoever to do with the discredited notion of satanic ritual abuse. It was almost the opposite, abuse by those who believed the children were satanic.

The DfES report, called *Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of "Possession" and "Witchcraft"*, was published in June.

The author, freelance researcher Eleanor Stobart, concluded that belief in possession, witchcraft and exorcism was widespread in the UK and around the world, in African churches which had been influenced by evangelical Christianity, in Anglican churches in the UK but also in other religions which involved a belief in good and evil.

She identified 38 cases involving 47 children mainly from Africa but also from South Asia, the Caribbean, Mauritius and also from a white English background. In each case the abuse occurred when an attempt was made to "exorcise" the child.

The abuse consisted of "severe beatings and other premeditated cruelties such as starving, burning and isolating the child." None involved sacrifice.

The abusers involved (mainly carers rather than parents) were predominantly evangelical Christians – but they also included Muslims – who all believed in possession by evil spirits and exorcism. They were categorically *not* – and in fact were quite the opposite of – satanists sexually abusing and sacrificing children during black magic rituals. The researchers received no evidence or even anecdotal reports of child sacrifice. They *did* identify a real and deeply unpleasant problem of child abuse by adults acting in the name of religion.

Meanwhile the case of Adam remains unsolved. Maybe the murder involved some form of horrific ritual. Maybe the child was mutilated to disguise his identity – as has happened in rare cases elsewhere. But the simple answer, despite the attempts to use the case to defend a more general belief in satanic abuse, is that no one knows.

You can contact the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

RUSSIA'S richest man, Roman Abramovich, may have pumped another £100 million – small change to someone whose wealth is estimated at up to £9 billion – into Chelsea ahead of the start of the champion's bid to capture a third successive Premiership title. The money was spent in June by Chelsea Limited to take up new shares in Chelsea FC, parent company of the soccer club.

The £100 million for one million shares was subscribed weeks before the company's financial year end of 30 June. Whether this was new money or conversion of part of the existing loans will not become clear until the 2006 accounts for both companies are made public next year.

A £150 million cash injection took place last year, but without any material reduction in the inter-group loans of £117 million. That followed a similar £100 million subscription for new shares in the soccer club by Chelsea FC in 2004. The subscription for new shares increases the share capital and so helps to cover the accumulated losses – £140 million for 2005 alone, making a total to then of £225 million – in the balance sheet.

At June last year Chelsea Limited indicated that it had invested some £435 million in the Abramovich football hobby since he bought the club in 2003 for £60 million. This had largely been financed by an interest-free unsecured loan of £382 million – presumably from Abramovich although the exact source is not clear – which can be repaid on 18 months' notice. That loan had increased by £158 million in the year and is likely to have risen again in the year to June 2006, probably taking his investment passed the £500 million mark.

That Abramovich will have had to increase his funding for Chelsea since June 2005 seems inevitable given the club's expected continued large losses last year despite winning the Premiership and its bigtime spending on players. On top of the £260 million spent in the first two years of the Abramovich reign a further £53 million had been spent by January 2006 and another £50 million in the recent close season, making a total of £363 million. That bill is reduced by the proceeds from player sales – but many of these have been at big losses, so the need for the Abramovich offshore chequebook is not likely to disappear any day soon, despite the aim of making the club self-financing.

But while Chelsea's owner may be prepared to lend unlimitedly and unsecured, the same cannot be said of the club's other more modest lenders. At the end of June, Barclays took out a charge over the cash deposited in Chelsea FC's bank accounts as security for its advances to the company.

Elsewhere on the Russian side of planet football, bankers Singer & Friedlander have emerged as lenders to Portsmouth and its new owner, Alexandre Gaydamak. As a result, young master Gaydamak has been repaid a loan he made to the club when he took control last January.

Singers, which has financed the club as recently as last year, registered two charges over the club's assets in June despite the reported but unconfirmed wealth of Gaydamak junior and the undoubted wealth of his fugitive arms-dealing father, Arcadi. Perhaps proof positive that Daddy has nothing to do with Pompey? But then it could be merely sound banking business given the precarious Portsmouth finances and junior's previous business failure, French citizenship and Israeli residence.

One charge is over payments to Portsmouth by the Premiership, such as for TV rights. The other is over the Fratton Park freehold. Barclays also has charges on the club's assets. Following the Singer loans in June, Gaydamak was repaid in mid-July – thereby releasing the charge he had over the Portsmouth players.

Unlike the Abramovich chequebook, it seems the Gaydamak chequebook is kept under much tighter control. As evidenced by the lack of expected big-ticket signings.

THE announcement of a new £10 billion contract for the Eurofighter from Saudi Arabia may have been greeted with enthusiasm by BAE Systems and the government. But it is unlikely to make life easier for the Serious Farce Office as it continues its long running probe into a suspected £60 million "slush fund" linked to corrupt services provided by BAE to certain of its high-ranking Saudi customers involved in the earlier £20 billion al-Yamamah Tornado contract.

The new Eurofighter contract is expected to increase the pressure from a never keen Ministry of Defence, not to mention the Foreign Office, about the risk of embarrassing such a good customer by making allegations that Saudi princelings are corrupt. Whatever next – bears in woods?

Over the past two years the SFO has questioned not just those involved in looking after the Saudis and their entourages, providing gifts and services such as picking up the tabs for holidays and visits. That paper trail has clearly lead to BAE insiders. Even former chairman Sir Dick Evans has been seen. No one has yet been charged.

But the question with corruption, as ever, is – how to prove that the gift or service was both corruptly given and received? And what to do if it is not possible to prosecute any of the recipients, only the bagmen? It is most unlikely that the Saudi authorities would co-operate with any corruption investigation involving or incriminating senior royals. That always creates a problem when it comes to proving the corruption – an allegation that would of course be completely denied by the Saudis.

It is these sorts of problems, plus a historic lack of enthusiasm for prosecuting corrupt but influential foreign individuals, which explain the abysmal failure to target corruption abroad by the British authorities. Little has changed, even since Britain grudgingly passed a law to make bribing foreign officials or politicians a crime. Since that law came into effect four years ago there has been just one prosecution by the SFO, of a Royal Mint official, who was acquitted. Those he was alleged to have paid were never tried.

The SFO has invested considerable time and effort into the BAE investigation and is also looking at the prospects for bringing charges over corrupt payments made to and by the regime of Saddam Hussein plus other cases. But the difficulties could yet prove insurmountable.

However, there are one or more potential fallbacks – false accounting and money laundering. The BAE payments for the services rendered by its intermediaries for the Saudis were almost certainly never recorded in the company books as what they really were. And that is a paper trail, which could go high up the corporate food chain, taking in all those who approved the payments and the false descriptions – marketing services? Similarly, the provision of a false paper trail to cover up what the payments were made for (keeping clients sweet and providing fresh business) could be considered money laundering.

A trial involving either could still result in a large degree of embarrassment for all concerned, both in London and Riyadh, if allegations of corruption were to be tossed around the courtroom. But that could mean being able to prove that the payments were indeed corrupt – as distinct from just hidden from the auditors and shareholders and merely business as usual in a part of the world where the customer expects to be looked after. Many of the BAE matters pre-date the new legislation and, so, were probably technically legal.

Just how sensitive such prosecutions can be when important foreign allies and customers are involved has been shown in the US – unlike Britain, no slouch at prosecuting companies for overseas bribes ever since it was made an offence nearly 30 years ago. James Giffen, bagman for international oil companies in kleptocratic Kazakhstan, has still to come to trial on an indictment unveiled three years ago. Giffen is

Continues over ☛

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE & RIGG

THANKS TO OUR EYE-WATERING WORKING HOURS...
...WE'RE WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST OUR CLOSEST COMPETITORS!
GLOBOCORP? THE CHINESE?
OUR WORKERS FAMILIES!
220.

talking about embarrassing US policymakers over their close relationship with President Nazarbayev – a key ally in Central Asia and an alleged beneficiary of Giffen's services.

Not that such allegations of endemic corruption or political murders linked to the Nazarbayev regime have prevented London regulators from welcoming a series of Kazakh companies to the stock market. The state-owned KazMunaiGaz oil group is the latest planning a London IPO, which will undoubtedly add to the Nazarbayev circle's wealth.

Saudi Arabia is not just a big British customer for weapon systems. It is also a vital ally in the war on terror. So a BAE linked prosecution may not be exactly welcomed in Whitehall or Downing Street. An even less so after the latest £10 billion deal.

NO doubt the clients of New York listed FTI Consulting were delighted that the firm had secured the services of Bill Grimsey and Bill Hoskins for FTI Palladium Partners' London operation. The two Bills "bring a wealth of retail, operational and turnaround experience", gushed the FTI announcement last March.

Investors in Big Food Group between 2001 and last year might have a less charitable take on the two Bills, who as chief executive and finance director ran the ludicrously renamed combination of Iceland frozen food and Bookers cash and carry stores. Indeed, they might even be surprised, given the figures, at the claim that the duo had turned round BFG!

Grimsey, who has the demeanor of a minor league football manager, set a target for sales growth of 15 per cent. Sales fell. Operating profits? Down too, from £59 million when they arrived to £38 million when they left.

And all the while that they were banging on about controlling costs the two Bills were having great fun spending company money. More than three-quarters of the flights of BFG's company plane were to take directors from an airfield close to their homes to one near the Deeside offices. More than £90,000 went to pay for a "life coach". All clearly legitimate and an approved, appropriate use of company cash.

BFG was acquired last year by Icelandic raiders Baugur and the two Bills walked away rich men. They are dismissive of those who criticise their record or spending at BFG. "Bill Hoskins and I built our reputations over the past ten years on the back of successfully recovering distressed situations by always complying to the strictest ethics and rules," Grimsey declared earlier this year. Quite so.

THE unfortunate David Carruthers, dumped chief executive of BetonSports, may be out of jail and on parole in Missouri after being charged by the US authorities with illegal online gambling but he will still not be able to keep his date at the second annual Mobile Gambling Summit Asia, due to take place in Hong Kong on 31 October. Carruthers was due to give the opening speech. Its subject – "Trend spotting – how to identify short and long term success strategies in the mobile gambling market". Such as avoiding prosecution and a lengthy prison term and the company from having to close down in its major market? BetonSports now says it will be concentrating on Asian gamblers. But without the luckless Carruthers as its spokesman.

'Slicker'

Number crunchings

$230m ■ aid pledged to Lebanon for reconstruction by USA

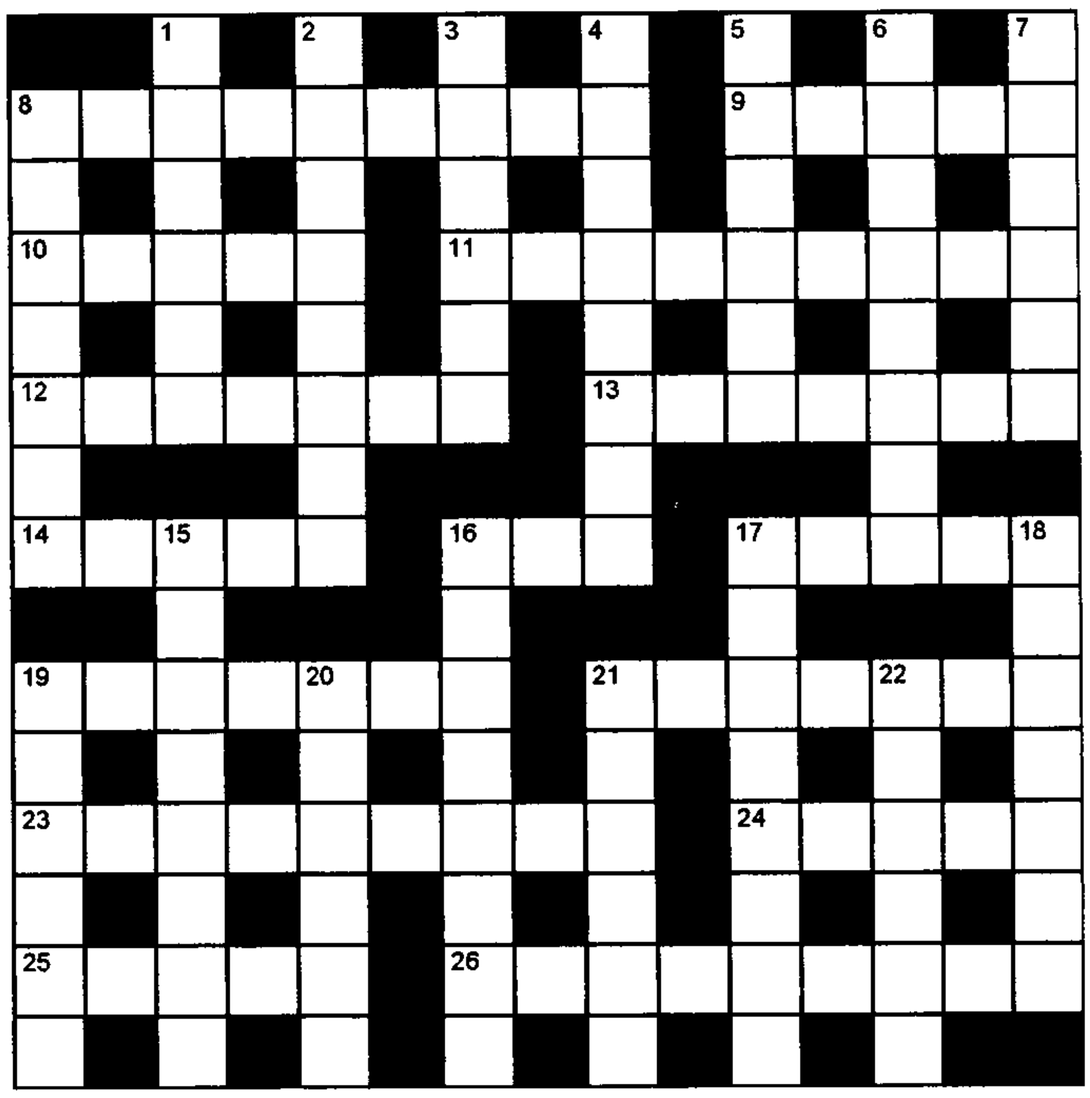
$2,147m ■ annual military aid given to Israel by USA

EYE CROSSWORD 321

by Cyclops

£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 8 September 2006

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk



ACROSS

8/5 "Rather the Tory party remained as it is", as a relieved phlegmatic type might remark? (6,3,4,2)
9 Whisky reveals hard heart of Brown and his dismissive expression (5)
10 Drug function present in lap dancing (1-4)
11 "Large organ getting stiff?" – that's hardly intellectual (9)
12 Vain fantasist: one to catch in *Private Eye* (7)
13 Boozers without a back doctor for their guts? (7)
14 Clergyman about to grab Kay's top is unfrocked – and more (5)
16/18 Voyeuristic show: grand, endless knocking-shop, right? (3,7)
17 Nerd sees heartless society girl taking piss (5)
19 Barbara Castle? (7)
21 Instruction to one fiddling with sex aid: "Remove the end"? (7)
23 Room adjacent to clubs, say: unwelcome location for a fart? (9)
24 A measure of the thickness of George Bush (extremely so), incarcerating initiators of "Iraqi religious terrorism" (5)
25 A date gives agreement to be tossed in much abused car (5)
26 Stuffing of the old-fashioned kind gives hack shock (9)

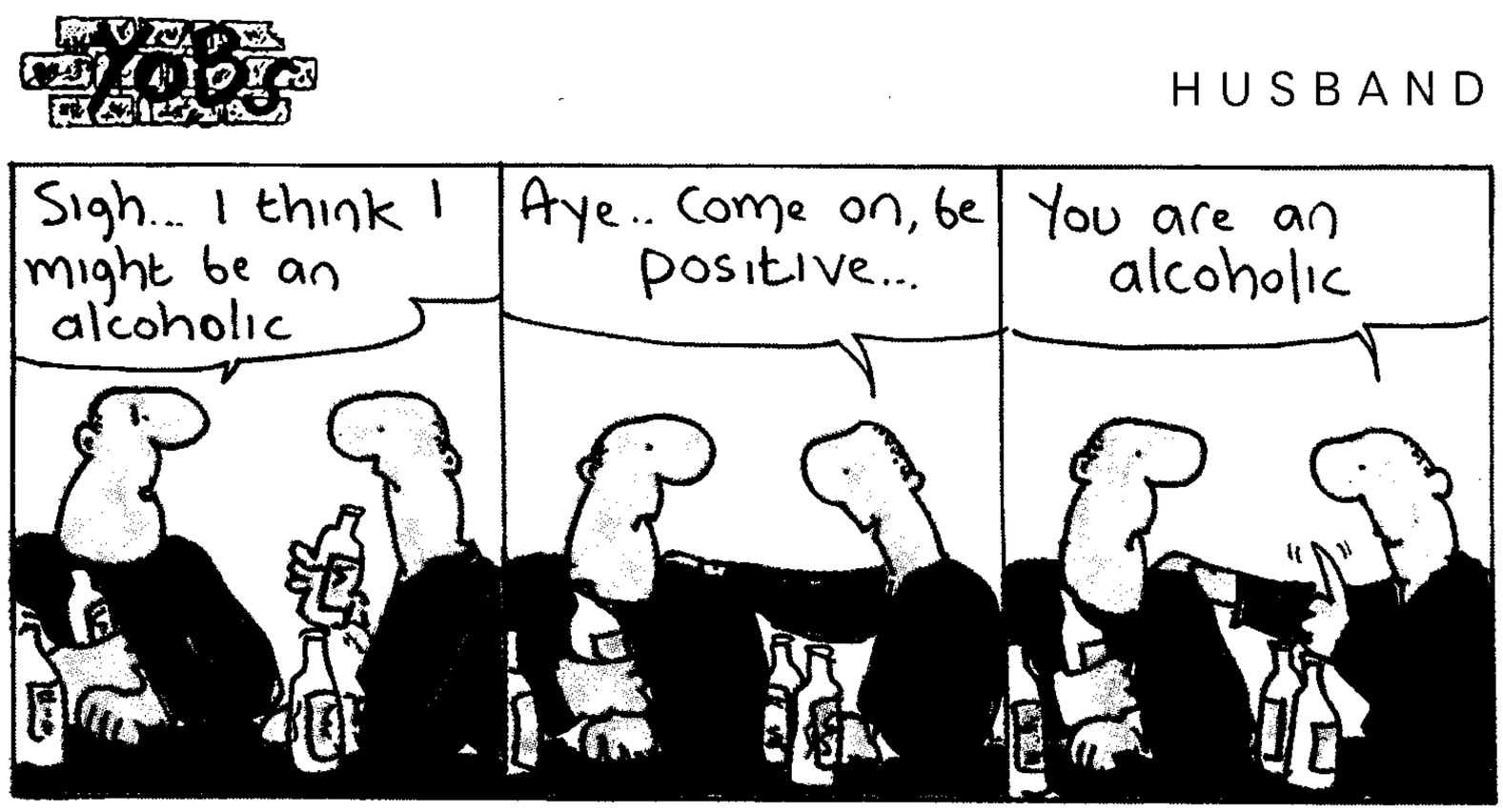
DOWN

1/20 Two ways to arrest a prostitute's client (save, perhaps a royalist politician) (2,4,6)
2 English lass getting screwed outside – assistance needed by suitor? (5,3)
3 Hawk joining British Legion: "Ultimately White!" and stuff (6)
4 Pissed off with the muggers' thing? (8)
5 See 8ac.
6 Have an honest orgasm to be fulfilled (4,4)
7 As donned by the would-be cool old Bob going to hell? (6)
8 PM, not much up top, needs a victory (7)
15 Go out with anorak Joey? (8)
16 Personal stink over yobs securing places for some corrupt politicians? (8)
17 Balls up – caught with trousers off (8)
18 See 16ac.
19 The biggest smartarse is in with wrong set (6)
20 See 1dn.
21 Dicky strove to get people who put an MP in his place? (6)
22 Miserable Blair, Labour's leader is out – needs a good potential lifesaver (6)

Crossword 320 winner: PAUL BARLOW

ACROSS: 8 Ocean 9 Give it a go 10 Peerage 11 Windsor 12/21 Political suicide 13 Loots 15 Look-see 17 Flannel 18 Nudge 19 Ceaseless 23 Comes up 25 Free world 26 Mates.

DOWN: 2 Sewell 3 In bad taste 4 Avowal 5 Sign 6 Ram's horn 9 Glencoe 12 Pylon 13 Leaked memo 14 Seles 16 Old-timer 17 Flaccid 19 Cheers 20 Ersatz 21/1 Soft soap 22 Iowa 24/7 Pisspoor.



The customer is always right.

So it's reassuring to see you voted the Kia Sorento best 4x4 in the JD Power Customer Satisfaction survey in 2005 and 2006. A survey that takes into account performance, design, running costs and dealership service. As it happens, you're not alone - the Sorento also won Caravan Club Towcar of the Year in 2006.

See? You *do* know best.

The multi-award winning Kia Sorento from £19,995. To find out more visit kia.co.uk, or call the Kia hotline on 0800 775 777.

THE OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES IN MPG (L/100KM) FOR THE KIA SORENTO RANGE ARE: URBAN 28.2 (10.0) – 25.7 (11.0), EXTRA URBAN 42.2 (6.7) – 38.7 (7.3) AND COMBINED 35.8 (7.9) – 32.8 (8.6) THE OFFICIAL CO2 EMISSIONS ARE 209 - 228 G/KM. Prices correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Model shown is Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XT Manual @ £24,995 On The Road (OTR). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government vehicle excise duty and vehicle first registration fee.

KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™

WINNER OF CHANNEL 4's POLITICAL COMEDY AWARD 2006

SAVE OVER £12.00 ON YOUR COPIES OF PRIVATE EYE

- **A SAVING** of over 34% on the full rate – that's 92p a copy (usually £1.40)
- **FREE** home delivery – so you'll never miss an issue
- **PLUS!** Our money-back guarantee – if you're not completely satisfied, we promise to refund you on all unmailed issues

Treat yourself or a friend to a subscription to Private Eye for just £24*

Order online:

www.private-eye.co.uk

or call our credit card hotline on:

0870 750 1714 or 01795 414 870

(Overseas +44 (0) 1795 414 870)

OR COMPLETE THIS ORDER FORM AND SEND TO: **PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS, P.O. BOX 326, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 8FA**

☐ **YES,** I would like to subscribe to Private Eye.

RATES FOR ONE YEAR (26 issues): UK £24* Europe & Eire £32 Rest of world £38

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

☐ I enclose a cheque for £_____ (payable to PRIVATE EYE, overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order)

☐ Direct Debit – just call 0870 750 1714 with your bank details or

☐ MasterCard / Visa / Switch (issue no:)

Card number

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ Switch only

Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature

☐ Yes, I would like to receive news of other products and services from Private Eye.

N1166

Ignore them!

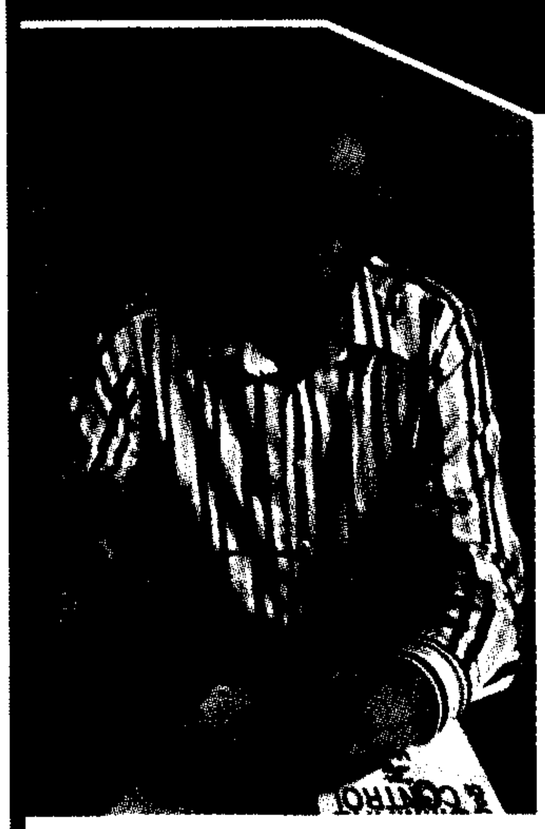
"The man who thinks ministers should get out of management"

John Seddon

presents

The Toyota System for service organisations

Featuring leading practitioners who have changed the way they think - achieving extraordinary results



Public sector organisations have been subjected to fierce command and control regimes in the name of 'modernisation'. And it hasn't worked.

The systems approach delivers high quality at lower costs and puts people where they should be, at the heart of the enterprise. Exactly what the ministers want, but only achievable currently if you ignore their edicts.

When: **Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th October 2006**

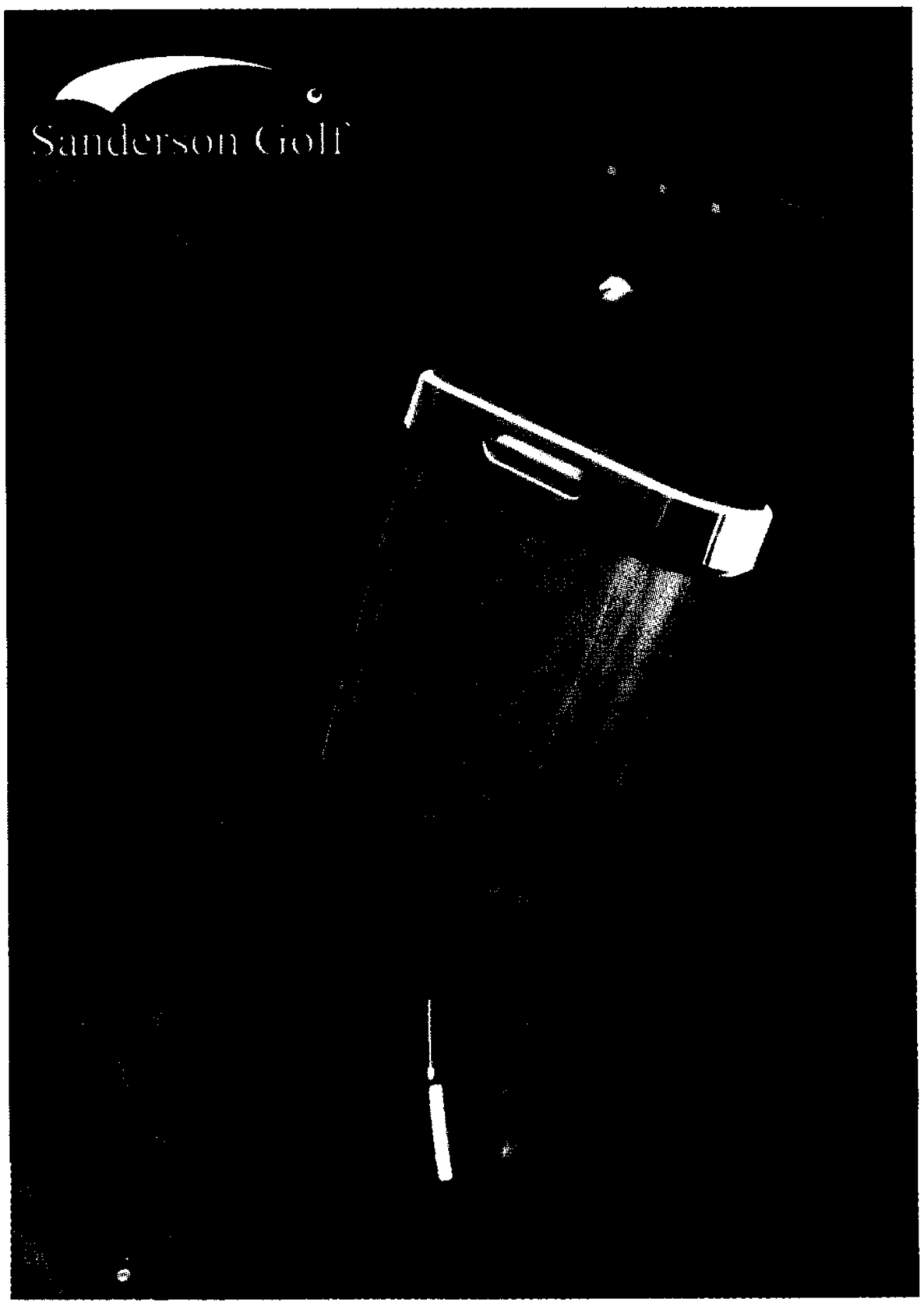
Where: **Heythrop Park Conference Centre** Oxfordshire

Can you afford not to be there?

Call: **01280 822255** during office hours
or visit: **www.lean-service.com**

VANGUARD

Sanderson Golf



europc®

EXCESS IT CLEARANCE WAREHOUSE

0870 458 9150
www.europc.co.uk

Discount PCs, Laptops & Monitors @ Up To 60% Off New

HUGE DELL DISCOUNTS | **FAMOUS BRAND DEALS** | **TOSHIBA, NEC & ACER OFFERS**

ELL OPTIPLEX BUSINESS SYSTEMS

DELL

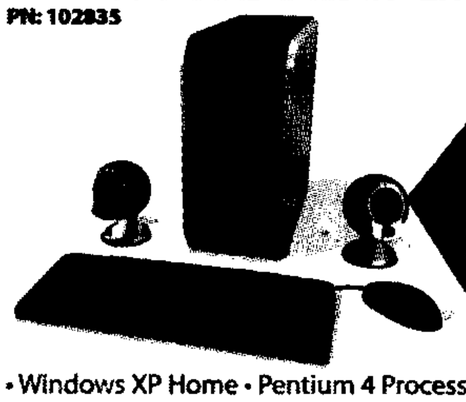
£229 INC VAT

SAVE £63

Windows XP Pro • Intel Celeron Processor 2.53 GHz • 256MB RAM
-ROM Drive • 40GB Hard Drive • Dell 3 Yr On-Site Warranty
rade: Dell Refurbished • Dell TFT Monitors from **£99**

FAMOUS BRAND iMEDIA - ENTRY LEVEL PC

PN: 102835



FAMOUS BRAND

£199 INC VAT

SAVE £60

- Windows XP Home • Pentium 4 Processor 2.93 GHz
- 256MB RAM • 80GB Hard Drive • DVDRW Drive
- 1 Year RTB Warranty • Grade: Refurbished

TOSHIBA QOSMIO F20 - MEDIA CENTRE LAPTOP

PN: 97727

TOSHIBA

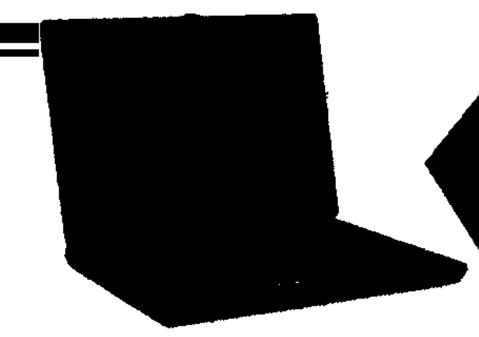
£699 INC VAT

SAVE £88

- Windows XP Media Centre • Pentium M Processor 1.86 GHz
- 512MB RAM • 60GB Hard Drive • DVDRW Drive • 15.4" Screen
- 128MB GeForce Graphics • Grade: Toshiba Refurbished

ELL LATITUDE 120L LAPTOP - MASSIVE 1GB RAM

N: 103053



DELL

£449 INC VAT

SAVE £175

Windows XP Pro • Intel Celeron M Processor 1.6 GHz • 1GB RAM
CDRW / DVD-ROM Drive • 60GB Hard Drive • Dell 1 Yr Collect &
eturn Warranty • Grade: Dell Refurbished

FAMOUS BRAND iMEDIA - 1618 GAMER PC

PN: 102827

FAMOUS BRAND

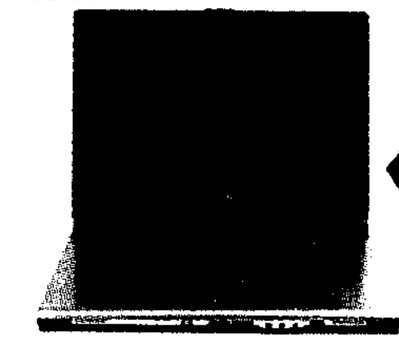
£299 INC VAT

SAVE £140

- Windows XP Home • Pentium 4 Processor 3.06 GHz
- 1GB RAM • 200GB Hard Drive • DVDRW Drive
- 256MB Radeon X600 Graphics • Grade: Refurbished

ACER TRAVELMATE 4020 - DVDRW LAPTOP

PN: 103453



acer.

£379 INC VAT

SAVE £76

- Windows XP Home • Pentium M Processor 1.6 GHz
- 256MB RAM • 40GB Hard Drive • DVDRW Drive • 15.4" Screen
- Grade: Refurbished

DELL PRECISION M65 - CORE DUO LAPTOP

N: 101606

DELL

£649 INC VAT

SAVE £266

Windows XP Pro • Intel Core Duo Processor 1.66GHz • 1GB RAM
60GB Hard Drive • CD-RW / DVD-ROM Combo • 256MB Quadro
X350m Graphics • Dell 3 Yr On-Site Warranty • Grade: Dell Refurbished

BUY NOW - PAY LATER - 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON ANY SALE OVER £300 INC VAT • CALL FOR VOLUME DISCOUNT OR CORPORATE ACCOUNT • QUOTE 'PRIVATE EYE' FOR FREE DELIVERY PHONE 0870 458 9150 NOW!

NEC VERSA C250 LAPTOP - WITH FINGERPRINT SECURITY PN: 101881

NEC

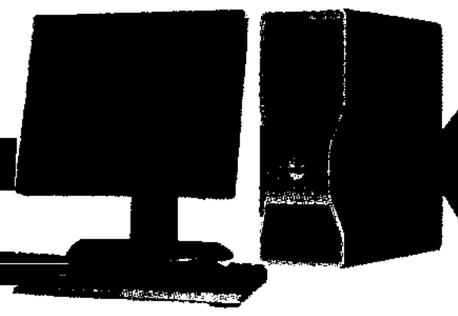
£385 INC VAT

SAVE £104

- Windows XP Home • Sempron 3100+ Processor
- 256MB RAM • 40GB Hard Drive • DVDRW Drive • 15" Screen
- Grade: BRAND NEW

DELL PRECISION 380 - POWER WORKSTATION

N: 102319



DELL

£499 INC VAT

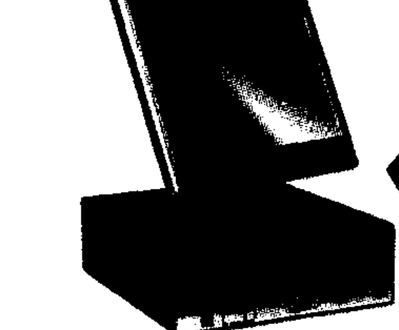
SAVE £520

Pentium 4 Processor 3GHz • 2GB RAM • 80GB Hard Drive
CD-RW / DVD-ROM Combo • 256MB Quadro FX3450 Graphics
Warranty Included • Factory Refurbished

MASSIVE WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE

NEC POWERMATE VL5 - XP PRO VALUE PC

PN: 101732



NEC

£229 INC VAT

SAVE £107

- Windows XP Pro • Sempron 2800+ Processor
- 512MB RAM • 40GB Hard Drive • DVD-ROM Drive
- 12 Months RTB Warranty • Grade: Refurbished

Buy online at www.europc.co.uk or call our sales team on 0870 458 9150

Europc Limited, Europc House, Cardonald Business Park, Glasgow G51 4EB, Fax: 0141 440 5010, Email: sales@europc.co.uk All systems exclude monitors unless otherwise documented. All transactions are subject to the Europc Standard Terms & Conditions, a copy of which is available on request. Systems may be excess stock or 'As New'. All prices exclude £10 delivery. Terms and conditions apply. All pictures are for illustrative purposes only. E&OE.

Andante
TRAVELS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL TRIPS
Small Groups led by Experts

Prehistoric Rock Art in Libyan Sahara
Pre-Inca Peru ♦ Maya in Mexican jungle
Palaeolithic Cave Paintings
And many, many more ....

- Academic holidays with a light touch. Unusual, often unique, itineraries; the best lecturers; hand-picked hotels, good local food and a relaxed atmosphere
- The groups are small (average 18) so we can discover the authentic cultures past and present of the countries we visit
- Some 'Bare Bones' semi-independent tours
- Holidays from £100 to £3650

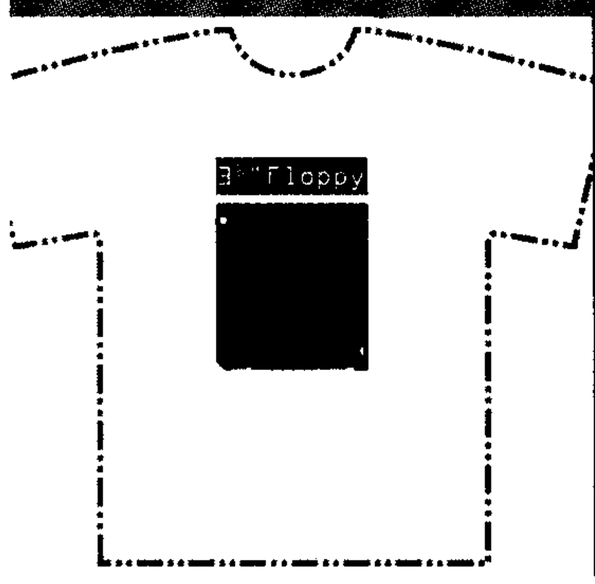
Why not see what we can offer?
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE:

01722 713800 **tours@andantetravels.co.uk**
www.andantetravels.co.uk

ATOL 3552 AITO

HOW'S MY ROWING
01276488000
www.howsmyrowing.com

[yawn]



T-shirts from £15.99 (inc P&P) - see our full range at
WWW.TEEMARTO.COM
buy online or call 01276 488 000

OM SAI RAM

A fitting end to the ill-fitting British suit

A suitable man to spark a men's clothing revolution

Consider this proposition. Would you rather pay the same sum for a single, off-the-peg, chain store suit cut by a computer and sold to you by a spotty boy who thinks side vents are to be found on a Lambretta scooter, or for two bespoke, custom cut, hand-stitched suits, measured and sold to you by a man for whom suits are a lifetime's passion?

The British clothing chain store has a lot to fear from ***Mr. Raja M Daswani*** of Kowloon. If there were a global ambassador for men's suiting, Mr Daswani, who owns and runs Hong Kong's biggest tailoring business, would be that man. He and his family team measure and make hundreds of suits a week for discerning clients across the world.

Indeed, so successful is ***Mr. Daswani***, that – a little unnervingly as he is measuring you up – he freely admits he doesn't really need to work any more: 'My team is as experienced as I am. But I just love men's suits and I wouldn't feel right sitting at home. It's not a business. It's a mission.

'I love seeing customers walk in a really bad suit that cost them a fortune and walk out in one of our suits that's perfect in every way, made with a good heart in a superior fabric for a half or a quarter as much.'

The price of a Daswani shirt and suit are astonishing. We are talking from £19 (£25 including tax and duty) for a custom shirt and £129 (£169 including tax and duty) for a fully lined, made-to measure suit in a lightweight wool or linen, to £250 (£325 including tax and duty) for a 100 per cent wool, entirely hand finished suit in a British cloth, with every refinement from handmade button holes to knee lining. Even the most expensive suit, made in deluxe superfine wool for £1,500 (£1,950 including tax and duty), costs a third less than it would on **Savile Row**.

Raja Daswani may be based in Hong Kong, but his sartorial mission to the badly dressed and overpaying British customer brings him to the UK as often as once a month. He and his team take over hotel suites in major cities, so British customers can make an appointment and get the full Kowloon Monty.

Measurements and digital photos are taken here and emailed to Hong Kong. Often, your suit will be started on by a tailor 6,000 miles away before you've even left the hotel. You can have it couriered within a week or so, or wait for a second fitting when the Raja team hits your town again a few weeks later.

It now remains to see whether the Raja revolution, with its inspired mix of artistic flair, entrepreneurial genius and digital technology, will see the end of the off-the-peg British chain store suit. On price alone, it's a sartorial solution that will even please the Suits in accounts.

Business hours 10am - 8pm
(by appointment only)
email: raja@raja-fashions.com
Mobile: ***07786 543258***
Tel: 0163 557 4233
Website: www.raja-fashions.com

London Sep 7–12	Sheraton Park Tower Tel: 0207-235-8050
London Sep 13–15	Novotel London Tower Bridge Tel: 0207-265-6000
London Sep 16–19	Hilton Paddington Hotel Tel: 0207-850-0500
London Sep 20–21	Four Seasons Hotel Tel: 0207-510-1999
London Sep 26–28	Hilton On Park Lane Tel: 0207-493-8000
Glasgow Sep 13–14	Hilton Glasgow Tel: 0141-204-5555
Edinburgh Sep 15–16	George Inter Continental Tel: 01312-251-251
Aberdeen Sep 17–18	Thistle Aberdeen Caledonian Tel: 01224-640-233
Dublin Sep 17–19	Dublin Four Seasons Hotel Tel: 353-1665-4000
Exeter Sep 20–21	Thistle Exeter Tel: 0870-333-9133
Cork Sep 21–22	Hayfield Manor Hotel Tel: 353-21-484-5900
Reading Sep 22–23	Renaissance Reading Tel: 0118-958-6222
Belfast Sep 24	Holiday Inn Tel: 028-9032-8511
Oxford Sep 24–25	Old Bank Hotel Tel: 01865-799599
Southampton Sep 26–27	Hilton Southampton Tel: 0238-070-2700
Bristol Sep 28–29	Bristol Marriott Hotel Tel: 0117-929-4281
Northampton Sep 29–30	Northampton Marriott Tel: 0870-400-7252
Cardiff Sep 30–Oct 1	Cardiff Hilton Hotel Tel: 029-20646300
Birmingham Oct 1–2	Hyatt Regency Birmingham Tel: 0121-643-1234
Manchester Oct 3–4	Renaissance Manchester Hotel Tel: 0161-835-2555
Leeds Oct 5–6	Leeds City Hilton Tel: 0113-244-2000

RAJA FASHIONS
Main Shop: 34C Cameron Road, Ground Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Tel:(852) 2366 7624 Fax:(852) 23692807

Jim Lawrence

lighting curtain poles curtains rugs door furniture ironmongery

For our **NEW** free brochure call **01206 265860**
or log on to **www.jim-lawrence.co.uk**

Jim Lawrence Traditional Ironwork Ltd. Scotland Hall Farm, Stoke by Nayland, Colchester, Essex CO6 4QG E-mail - sales@jim-lawrence.co.uk Fax - 01206 262166

PRI010906

Morgan

WAREHOUSE SURPLUS OUTLET

MAIL ORDER SALES LINE
0870 126 4831
www.morgancomputers.co.uk

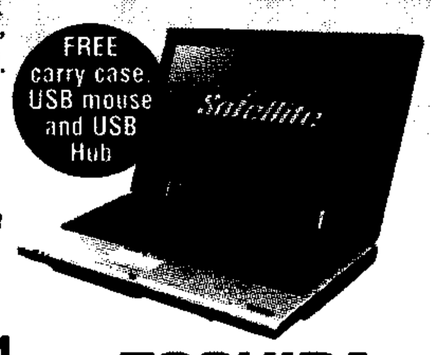
Stores in London, Birmingham and Manchester.
See below for store locations/opening hours.

TOSHIBA SATELLITE PRO M50

Slimline notebook with widescreen TFT, integral 11g WiFi & CD-RW/DVD-ROM.

- **Intel Celeron-M 360 (1.4GHz) chip**
- **256MB DDR RAM, 40GB hard drive**
- **Combo CD writer/DVD-ROM drive**
- **WiFi, modem, LAN & Win XP Home**

Stock status: Brand new stock
Warranty: 1 year International warranty



£329.99 ex VAT **£387.74** inc VAT

TOSHIBA

ACER HANDHELD SAT NAV

Handheld or in-car GPS system with full UK and Ireland maps.

- **Pocket PC with integral GPS**
- **Bright 3.5" TFT colour display**
- **Includes in-car cradle/charger**
- **Maps supplied on 256MB SD**

Stock status: Factory re-work
Warranty: 6 month warranty

£129.99 ex VAT **£152.74** inc VAT

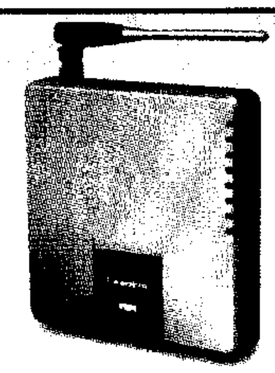
acer

LINKSYS WIRELESS GATEWAY

11g wireless modem, router and firewall with SpeedBooster mode.

- **11b/g, up to 125Mbps data**
- **Suitable for ADSL2+ (25Mbps)**
- **4 x 10/100 Ethernet LAN ports**
- **64/128Bit WEP/WPA security**

Stock status: Factory refurb stock
Warranty: 1 year warranty



£29.99 ex VAT **£35.24** inc VAT

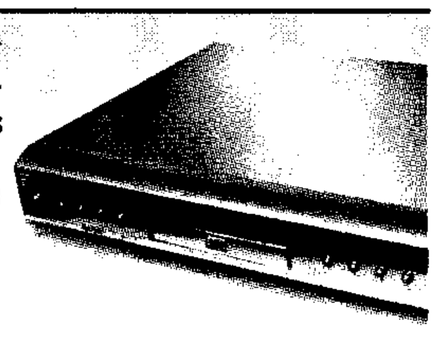
LINKSYS

MICO DVD+R/+RW RECORDER

Easy to use recorder with VideoPlus+ programming and front DV/AV inputs.

- **Rec to DVD+R/+RW, plays all formats**
- **5 record modes - up to 6hrs/disc**
- **Copy camcorder video direct to DVD**
- **Reads Video CD,/Audio CD/MP3 CD**

Stock status: Grade A refurb stock
Warranty: 1 year warranty



£29.99 ex VAT **£35.24** inc VAT

MiCO

CN MEMORY 1GB FLASH DRIVE

- **Massive storage, slimline casing**
- **Ideal for backups and data transfers**
- **Hi speed USB 2.0, up to 480Mbps**

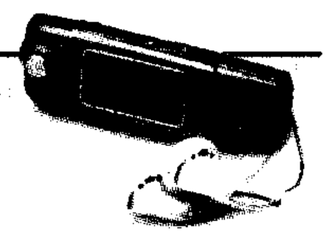
Brand new stock, 5 year warranty

£12.99 ex VAT **£15.26** inc VAT

256MB COMPACT MP3

- **Lavod LFA-231 with LCD screen**
- **Voice rec mode, USB data storage**
- **Hi-speed USB 2.0, inc headphones**

Brand new stock, 1 year warranty



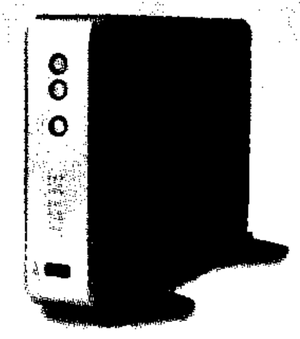
£14.99 ex VAT **£17.61** inc VAT

WD 160GB MEDIA DRIVE

External hard disk drive with integrated media card reader.

- **High speed 7200 rpm drive**
- **Integral 8-in-1 card reader**
- **Auto or manual backup modes**
- **USB 2.0 & Firewire interface**

Stock status: Brand new stock
Warranty: 1 year warranty



£69.99 ex VAT **£82.24** inc VAT

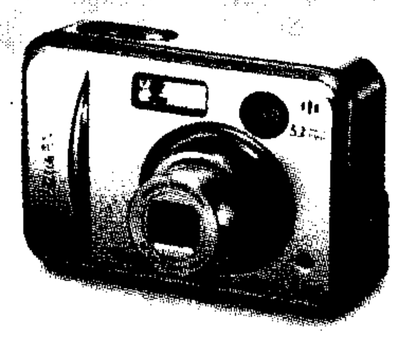
Western Digital

FUJI A350 5 MEGAPIXEL CAMERA

5.2 megapixel digital camera with 3x optical zoom lens and LCD screen.

- **Easy to use automatic camera**
- **Optical viewfinder, movie recording**
- **Accepts xD card - 16MB included**
- **PictBridge compaible USB port**

Stock status: Brand new stock
Warranty: Full 1 year Fuji warranty



£74.99 ex VAT **£88.11** inc VAT

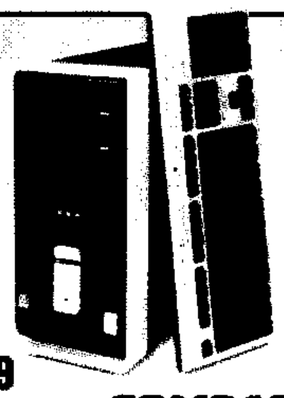
FUJIFILM

COMPAQ 64 BIT DESKTOP

Home office/family PC with DVD re-writer, Win XP and Works 8.0

- **AMD Athlon 64 3200+ chip**
- **512MB RAM, 160GB drive**
- **DVD rewriter, card reader**
- **Internet keyboard & mouse**

Stock status: Factory re-work stock
Warranty: 1 year warranty



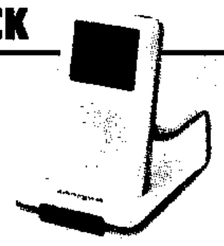
£259.99 ex VAT **£305.49** inc VAT

COMPAQ

KENSINGTON STEREO DOCK

- **Plug your iPod into your home HiFi**
- **Includes infrared remote control**
- **Works with all 'dock' based models**

Brand new stock, 5 year warranty

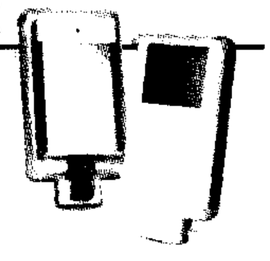


£19.99 ex VAT **£23.49** inc VAT

BELKIN TUNEPOWER PACK

- **Compact Li-Ion external battery**
- **Adds up to 10 hours extra usage**
- **Suits all iPods with dock connector**

Brand new stock, 1 year warranty



£16.99 ex VAT **£19.96** inc VAT

TOSHIBA EQUIUM A100-549

Widescreen notebook with DVD writer drive and ATi Xpress X200 graphics.

- **Intel Celeron-M 360 (1.4GHz) chip**
- **1GB DDR2 RAM, 40GB hard drive**
- **TruBrite 15.4" widescreen TFT**
- **56K/LAN/WiFi, Windows XP Home**

Stock status: Toshiba classified stock
Warranty: 1 year warranty

£379.99 ex VAT **£446.49** inc VAT

TOSHIBA

ACER 17" LCD MONITOR

- **1024 x 768 optimum resolution**
- **Stylish black & silver case design**
- **Integrated stereo speakers**

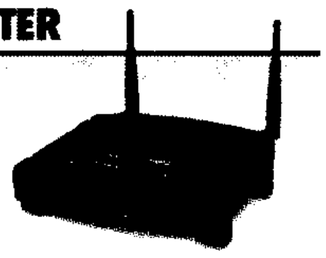
Factory re-work, 6 month warranty

£84.99 ex VAT **£99.86** inc VAT

LINKSYS 11G WIFI ROUTER

- **Ideal for sharing broadband access**
- **Up to 54Mbps, 11b/g compatible**
- **Inc 64/128Bit WEP/WPA security**

Factory refurb, 1 year warranty



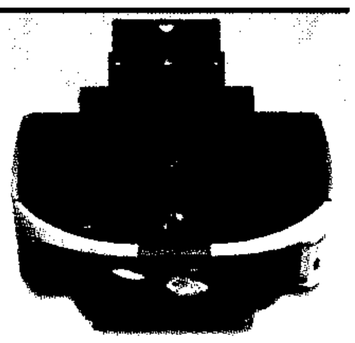
£19.99 ex VAT **£23.49** inc VAT

CANON INKJET PRINTER

MP500 all-in-one photo printer, high res scanner & colour copier.

- **Lab quality fast photo printing**
- **LCD screen and card reader**
- **PictBridge ready USB port**
- **CD/DVD label printing facility**

Stock status: Factory re-work stock
Warranty: 1 year warranty



£69.99 ex VAT **£82.24** inc VAT

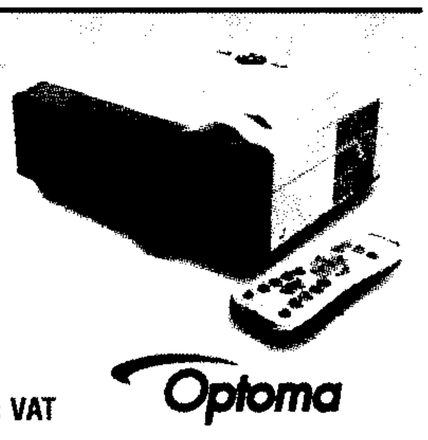
Canon

OPTOMA PORTABLE PROJECTOR

EP-716R compact DLP projector, with SVGA output, portable design - 2kg.

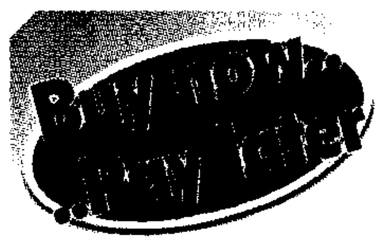
- **800 x 600 dpi SGVA resolution**
- **2200 lumens, 2000:1 contrast ratio**
- **Ideal for business presentations**
- **Loads of inputs inc VGA & S-Video**

Stock status: Brand new stock
Warranty: 2 year 'hot swap' warranty



£399.99 ex VAT **£469.99** inc VAT

Optoma



6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON ANY SALE OVER £400

SUBJECT TO STATUS, OVER 18'S, WRITTEN QUOTE UPON REQUEST

ROAD ANGEL CLASSIC

- **Detects speed cameras/blackspots**
- **Audiable and visual warnings**
- **Inc 1st yr Road Angel subscription**

Brand new stock, 1 year warranty

£79.99 ex VAT **£93.99** inc VAT

TO HAVE A FREE COPY OF OUR FLYER DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR EVERY MONTH PLEASE CALL 0870 126 4831

CENTRAL LONDON
64-72 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1AX
Tel 020 7255 2115
Fax 020 7436 6285

GREENFORD
Unit 25 Derby Road
Metropolitan Ctr UB6 8UJ
Tel 020 8575 0055
Fax 020 8575 7985

BIRMINGHAM
34 Edgbaston Centre Hagley
Road Birmingham B16 8SH
Tel 0121 452 1141
Fax 0121 455 6855

MANCHESTER
Unit 11-12 Station Approach
Manchester M1 2Gb
Tel 0161 237 1111
Fax 0161 237 3146

Monday-Friday (New Oxford St) 9.00am-5.30pm (10:00am - 6.30pm)
Saturday (New Oxford St) 9.00am-5.00pm (10:00am - 6:00pm)
Sunday (New Oxford St) 10.00am-4.00pm (open 'til 6:00pm)

Maestro

VISA

Stock & prices subject to change. E&OE

Classified: 020 7240 9129

Email: private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk

Fax: 020 7379 7118

£2.60 per word (£26 min charge). Centred box £15. Box number £15. All charges VAT inclusive.
Reply to Box number at: Private Eye. McMillan-Scott. 9 Savoy Street. London WC2E 7HR.

Copy date for 15 September issue will be 1pm, Tuesday 5 September

www.eyeadvertise.co.uk receives over 50,000 unique visitors every month and now carries advertising.
For unbeatable value call Damien on 020 7878 2313 or go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk
and place your advert online

CELEBRITY? Artist creates cast of your hand, free. No strings. jpenderton@hotmail.co.uk

PSSST. WANNA BUY A BANKSY? Visit www.spitalfieldsartmarket.co.uk

WE NEED YOUR VOTES. Send in your nominations for the 12th Cartoon Art Trust Awards: political, joke, pocket, strip cartoonist and caricaturist to The Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell St., London WC1A 2HH; by email to cartoonarttrustawards@cartoonmuseum.org or visit www.cartoonmuseum.org Closing date, 25 September.

MARK YARDLEY PRINTS, originals, commissions, shop online. See my portfolio at www.markyardley.com

POST-WAR HERTFORDSHIRE PROPERTY, detached, classic English foundations, Mediterranean influences, original features and fittings (OK, uneven thatch) seeks educated N/S_ duenna any nationality for company, culture, cuisine, fun... hertsproperty@tiscali.co.uk

INTERESTING PROFESSONAL MAN offers beautiful highly educated lady occasional memorable lunches at fine London restaurants. Email why you should be across table to meet4lunch@hotmail.co.uk

SPORTY 6FT DIVORCED Bristol guy 54, solvent, seeks a slim female, 25+ to wine and dine. Tel: 07748 038 407.

POSH, PRETTY, SLIM FEMALE seeks champagne socialist to drink, discuss and be merry with. London. Contact: onegoodwoman@hotmail.com

www.giftperfect.co.uk Last minute present problems? Check Gift Perfect for next day mailing.

BUDDHIST T-SHIRTS designed by trainee Buddhist Monk to support his study. www.DanaBowl.com

GIFTS FOR THE REDHEAD in your life – www.redandproud.com Tel: 01844 274 635.

"IT'S AN AMAZING SITE" – Angus, London www.gizmoandwidget.com Shopping for fun!

TITLES – LORD, LADY etc. Tel/fax: 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

QUIETER THAN THE COTSWOLDS? Clear air, pure water and sheer enjoyment. Colwall Park Hotel in the Malvern Hills – Restaurant of the Year and AA Courtesy & Care Awards. Gourmet breaks from £79.00 pppn 2+ nights. Tel: 01684 540000. www.colwall.com

80K FOR A PARKING SPACE? Sod that! How about 90K for an acre plus and the best sea views? North West Coast of Scotland. All services and planning in place. motorned@hotmail.com

INTERESTING PROPERTIES in SW France: Vineyards, development sites, houses in town and country. www.aquitaineproprietes.com

SPAIN: Serendipity. www.walkandtalk.info "Your secrets are safe". Short breaks.

CAPE TOWN: Two-bedroom apartment directly on the beach overlooking Table Mountain, five minutes to waterfront. www.capetownbeachapartment.com

TWO-DAY WOODWORK COURSES in Dorset: fun, informal and relaxing, suitable for all. www.mallinson.co.uk

CZECH REPUBLIC for perfect White Christmas and New Year in 17th Century Bohemian stone farmhouse: full programme of (optional) winter activities and only one hour from Prague. See www.czechfarmhouse.com

TRAVEL PARTNER WANTED for independent trips to world's less usual places. Age / gender irrelevent; SOH essential. Reply Box 173379.

WHY CAMEL TREK ALONE? Travel at travelmate.tv

CAN YOUR COMPANY SURVIVE? Corporate management team-building, sail training, functions: Days and full packages available aboard 1931 Danish Kotter. www.sailjosefine.com Tel: 07971 376 172.

EXHILIRATING GO-KARTING for corporate hospitality or private functions at www.karting-online.com

BANKRUPTCY ASSOCIATION: Established 1983. Books and advice on bankruptcy: www.theba.org.uk

SINCERE. Need to BORROW £22,250 for one year. Can involve solicitor for safe return of your money. Bill: 07738 017133.

BUDDING CHARITY FUNDRAISER and comedy writer seeks patron and sponsors. Very original high-profile plans in pipeline. Nothing wacky, and no – not more damned Land's End to John O'Groats drivel. Email for details: parryphernalia@gmail.com Cheers!

BENT&TWISTED tries to make sense of stuff in the news. It's quite funny. And FREE! www.BentAndTwisted.co.uk

LITERARY AGENCY invites book proposal submissions: first novels, biography, history, memoir, current affairs, humour. Email: proposals@sarahsuch.com

MURDER MYSTERY NOVEL set in French nudist resort. Buy 'The Reluctant Nudist' online 222.reluctantnudist.com

CORRECTIVE CORRESPONDENCE CLUB for cross-dressers. Apply to Jennifer for personal instruction, contacts and amusing monthly newsletter. Reply Box 173391.

PRESERVE YOUR COMMERCIAL IDENTITY – mature, experienced front man / negotiator. grantdonaldson@btinternet.com

WANT TO GET YOUR BUSINESS in to central Europe or Russia? Know how to do it? We do. Business expertise for non-dummies: www.escapconsulting.com

BRAINS, ENERGY, FINANCE needed for global adventure. Especially motorcycle enthusiasts. Hyde45@gmail.com

CAN YOU SELL CREATIVE WORK to professionals? I'm looking for a sales guru and possible business partner. No investment required – established business. Tel: 01327 340 350.

YES, you can now come direct to a barrister. Tel: 020 7833 9625.

HAVE YOU BEEN LET DOWN BY YOUR SOLICITORS OR DOES YOUR SOLICITOR LACK THAT CUTTING EDGE? Ahmud & Co., the lawyers that make a difference. www.ja-solicitors.com Tel: 020 8886 1111 or enquiries@ja-solicitors.com No legal aid.

EARPLUGS.CO.UK For sleeping, snoring, concertgoers, flight, tinnitus, shooting and swimming. Noise therapy products too.

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100-£3000. Shed not shop – telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. Tel: 01622 871 353.

WE DON'T NEED PARTY WHIPS to keep our prices in line. For expert advice on hi-fi, home cinema and flat screen TVs and the UK's cheapest prices... Guaranteed, check out Richer Sounds! Call 0845 900 1230 for your nearest store or check out www.richersounds.com

MONEY TO BURN? Help our sales rocket. www.247fireworks.com Tel: 01472 358 883.

www.armybootcampfitness.co.uk Get fit, have fun and meet new people.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS, electric bikes and wheelchairs, nationwide delivery at up to 20% off retail prices. Free colour brochures. Tel: 02890 838 111 anytime.

MEISTERSINGER WATCHES: Now available in the UK. Winner of numerous German design awards. www.meistersinger.co.uk

BROMPTON FOLDING BICYCLE. One obsessive owner. £280 to good home (cost £550). Telephone (020) 7284 0788.

DRIVE PUSSY WILD! Purrfect gift ideas. www.sparkipuss.com ... for cat lovers.

DESPERATELY NEED HELP: family to support, 45K in debt. HSBC, S/C: 40-47-58. A/C: 93886867.

HORROR MOVIE! Invest £30K and have speaking part. mscan@fsbdial.co.uk

MI5 TRIED TO KILL ME, 17 November 2001. Resulting legal action cost £30,000 so far; risk losing home. Please help, www.mi5.com (CreditCard/PayPal), Barclays, S/C: 20-21-78. A/C: 80884065.

NEED TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS? I'll help! S/C: 08-92-86. A/C: 03406274.

PLEASE HELP: NEED £50,000. Nationwide, S/C: 07-00-30. A/C: 74481500.

TRAINEE PARAMEDIC desperately saving to finance trip of lifetime for mum after dad passed on. Please, please help. S/C: 40-34-18. A/C: 82346265.

SMALLHOLDERS up to necks in manure need 50K shovel to get us out (or 500K to realise dream). Any help appreciated. S/C: 09-01-27. A/C: 02074102.

NURSE, LONE PARENT, 40, forced to retire due to long term physical illness. About to lose family home. All help greatly appreciated. NatWest, S/C: 56-00-63. A/C: 36200964.

£6000 DESPERATELY NEEDED to pay off loan, unable to work following brain haemorrhage. S/C: 77-26-08. A/C: 16074968.

ANY HELP APPRECIATED. Young woman abandoned by partner, working three jobs to pay off £30K debt, please help. HSBC, S/C: 400618. A/C: 51410385.

HARD-WORKING SINGLE MOTHER seeks help with university fees, £10-£11K. All help greatly appreciated. HSBC, S/C: 40-23-12. A/C: 51564137.

MATURE STUDENT with MS needs £11K to fund MPhil at Cambridge. Please help me. S/C: 60-04-41. A/C: 12554235.

GENUINE: Mother and daughter need to escape violence. £800 bond required, have £300. HSBC, S/C: 40-09-19. A/C: 22130092.

WHIRLWINDED single mum seeks assistance with student debt, £10-£10,000. Any amount greatly appreciated. S/C: 20-47-61. A/C: 80024430.

NEW GIRLFRIEND, cannot afford to keep her. S/C: 30-92-87. A/C: 00412738.

PADDY MORRIS & ANDY WARD London to Istanbul sponsored walk. Nearly half way with sore legs. Boost their morale by giving to British Red Cross through www.justgiving.com/paddymorris. Thanks.

YOUNG FAMILY, HUGE DEBTS
(£57K), can't sleep / pay all bills.
Help greatly received.
S/C: 11-02-08. A/C: 00340987.

DONATE MONEY towards a healing retreat. Reward?
A lifetime of relaxing treats.
peneloperollinson@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 02920 363 182 or 07950 595 613.

INVESTOR WANTED.
To go into partnership for a private science and IT school project for children in Accra, GHANA.
Contact, email:
ghanaschoolproject@yahoo.com

CHILD/INFANT SURGERY for profound deafness. Cochlear Implant. Parents paid £45,000. More surgery to follow. Help desperately required.
S/C: 20-99-40. A/C: 50685585.

HEALTH CARE WORKER,
debt incurred helping and caring for others. Help appreciated.
Barclays, S/C: 20-05-00.
A/C: 50065714.

NO SOB STORY, Welshman struggling in London. Can't move home.
Can you help? Diolch!
S/C: 11-05-43.
A/C: 00506110.

DEBTS RECOVERED/PEOPLE FOUND.
No trace, no fee.
Former police detective, LLB (Hons)
www.debtrecoveryuk.biz
Phone 0870 888 8001.

LINK INVESTIGATIONS:
Private Investigators, Researchers, Genealogists.
Tel: 01342 719 361.
Fax: 01342 719 641.
Email: info@linkinvestigations.co.uk
Website:
www.linkinvestigations.co.u

VAT PROBLEMS? Taxman on your case? Speak to Eamon McNicholas.
www.EamonMcNicholas.com

A GALLIMAUFRY of services for Business and Private Clients from www.moon-craft.co.uk
Go on.

GREAT SPEECH WRITING:
"Incredibly I gave the best best man's speech I'd ever heard!" Mark B, 2006. Want help writing your wedding or event speech?
Lawrence: 07970 046 230.
www.greatspeechwriting.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL COMEDY stage hypnotist: Outrageously funny.
www.robbiefox.co.uk Vixen Management. Tel: 020 7272 5533.

STD TESTING AND TREATMENT
without having to visit a clinic.
Healthcare Commission registered, overseen by leading NHS specialists.
www.drthom.com

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS INT.
Complete Investigation Service, call +44 (0)870 321 3999.
Email: info@lasker.co.uk or visit www.lasker.co.uk

www.iPodLoader.co.uk - we convert your CDs to MP3 and transfer them onto your iPod.

BUSINESS CONSTIPATED?
You need a marketing enema!
www.copy-doctor.co.uk
Tel: 01273 401 882.

Workingsolo.co.uk is for entrepreneurs who like to make and save money.

ALL VEHICLES WANTED,
cash paid, new or used. Any condition.
Gary Henderson. Tel: 07721 614 124.
Email: fr@ncesca.co.uk

YOUR DREAM JOB?
It is if you'd enjoy taking people around the UK and France as a driver / guide. We're looking for guides to train over the winter ready for 2007. You should be educated, under 65 and be prepared to obtain a PCV driving licence (subsidised courses available). Visit www.backroadstouring.co.uk for further details.

MENNA MATURE
mixed oriental visiting massage. Professional service.
Tel: 07837 560 761.

LOVING LINKS.
UK's leading discreet adult dating service since 1994. Unique top level one-to-one matching service and fast online email system.
Call David for a chat
08456 440 919.

A TEAM OF QUALIFIED MASSEUSES
offer a genuine, relaxing and uplifting massage.
Tel: 020 7706 2318 or
07789 824 854.
www.exoticmassage.co.uk

LONESEOME OXBRIDGE BLUES?
Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

MEET ORIENTAL LADIES
in London / South East.
Tel: 01483 284 123 or
jasminintroductions.com

ENGLISH THERAPIST: Relax and be pampered in Chelsea. Visits also available. Tel: 07932 939 227.

UNDER TANTRIC SKIES:
Tuition and pleasure training, Jahnet delight and playmates.
Tel: 07966 193 244.
Info @ 020 7813 0597.

RUSSIAN LADIES, attractive and sincere seek relationship / marriage. Meet many Russian ladies in Britain. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. IFM 01708 478 697. www.intromoscow.co.uk

MEN WANTED! Speed dating for grown-ups. Fabulous party nights for the over 35's: Norwich 05/09 (ladies sold out); London 27/09 (Places available for both ladies and men).
BOOK NOW. www.kcdating.co.uk
Tel: 01728 635 064 / 07986 213 120.

MASSAGE: CLASSY, PROFESSIONAL lady to visit you in the Oxfordshire / Gloucestershire / Buckinghamshire / Berkshire area. Call: 07900 840 310 or 01865 557 233.

www.personsdotcom.com
Make contact and meet, leisure interests / expats.
NOT a dating site!

IVORY TOWERS – dating for graduates of all eras: a new way of doing an old thing.
www.ivorytowers.net

BEAUTIFUL CZECH WOMEN,
devoted and cultured, for long-term relationship. Tel: 020 7381 6521.
www.eastern-europe-women.com

ALTERNATIVE AND HOLISTIC THERAPY
services for stressed souls.
Based in central Watford and open from 10am till late.
Tel: 07894 123 003. We are not a stereotype but a healing type.

Lost out due to bad advice?
Why don't you sue your accountant/solicitor /surveyor?
Contact: GORVINS on 0800 015 9986 or email enquiries@gorvins.com

RICHARD INGRAMS
hosts another in the series of famous
LITERARY LUNCHES

LOVE A SECOND TIME AROUND?
Are you a middle-aged man and about to marry again? Or, are you still looking for love? Help with our research for a Channel 4 documentary about new love in mid-life. Telephone Lynn on 07782 288 435 or email lynn@centuryfilmsltd.com

NICE BRAIN!
MIND IF WE PICK IT?
Are you interested in sharing your opinions and getting rewarded for it?
If you are, then you should join the Indiefield Consumer Directory and register to take part in our Market Research events.
Just go to www.indiefield.net and follow the link to 'Register Now'.
Sessions can last anything from five minutes to a few hours and, if you take part, you will receive a gratuity of anything from £5 to £250 depending on the exact nature of the study.
Take a peep at the site and create PRIVATELY!

To place your classified ad call Damien Weafer on 020 7240 9129

The Besting of Humphrey Mercer

a new, thoroughly entertaining novel by Norman Allen.
An adult tale of dark deeds, greed, howling ineptitude and murder within an advertising agency. If you are tired of unfunny crap on TV, this book is for you. If nauseating advertising makes you smirk, this book will have you in fits!
Order from bookstores:
ISBN: 1-904433-54-5
or order direct from:
www.twentyfirstcenturypublishers.com
or **www.amazon.co.uk**
or telephone **01892 522802**

www.eyeadvertise.co.uk
www.eyeadvertise.co.uk receives over 50,000 unique visitors every month and now carries advertising. For unbeatable value, call Damien on 020 7878 2313 or go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk and place your advert online

Humorous Speechwriter
www.brianjenner.com
Tel 01202 551257

Retain the regular use of The Book of Common Prayer by joining the PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY
PBS Prayer Book Society
www.prayerbook.org.uk
Tel: 01189 842582
Reg. charity no. 1099295
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4786973

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS
Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2003.
Sundays from 1915.
Quality presentations.
Same day dispatch.
REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk
020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

You're about to buy a digital SLR.

You've done all your homework.

You've read all the reviews.

You know which one you want.

And then this happens.

At the heart of the image

Nikon

The new 10.2 megapixel Nikon D80. RRP £699.99. Available from September.

www.nikon.co.uk

D80

Welcome to Nikon

Unleashed.

Introducing the powerful new Saab 9-5. With a choice of turbo-charged engines. Whether it's the 1.9TiD or the 260bhp Aero, both have exceptional mid-range torque. Power that's tamed by a precision-tuned chassis in an aerodynamic and sleek body. So while it may have the heart of a beast, it responds silkily to every command.

For a brochure call 0845 300 9395, text 'unleashed' to 84464† or visit saaboffers.co.uk

The new breed Saab 9-5. Saab 95

9 770032 888112 35>

OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR SAAB 9-5 RANGE IN MPG (LITRES/100KM): URBAN 18.5 (15.3) - 32.8 (8.6), EXTRA URBAN 35.7 (7.9) - 54.3 (5.2), COMBINED 26.6 (10.6) - 44.1 (6.4), CO_2 EMISSIONS G/KM: 174 - 251. Models start from £21,696 for the 1.9 TiD 150 bhp Linea Model illustrated Saab 9-5 Aero 2.3 HOT (260bhp) Saloon fitted with manual gearbox - on-the-road price £28,552. †Charge for text will be at users' normal network rat